

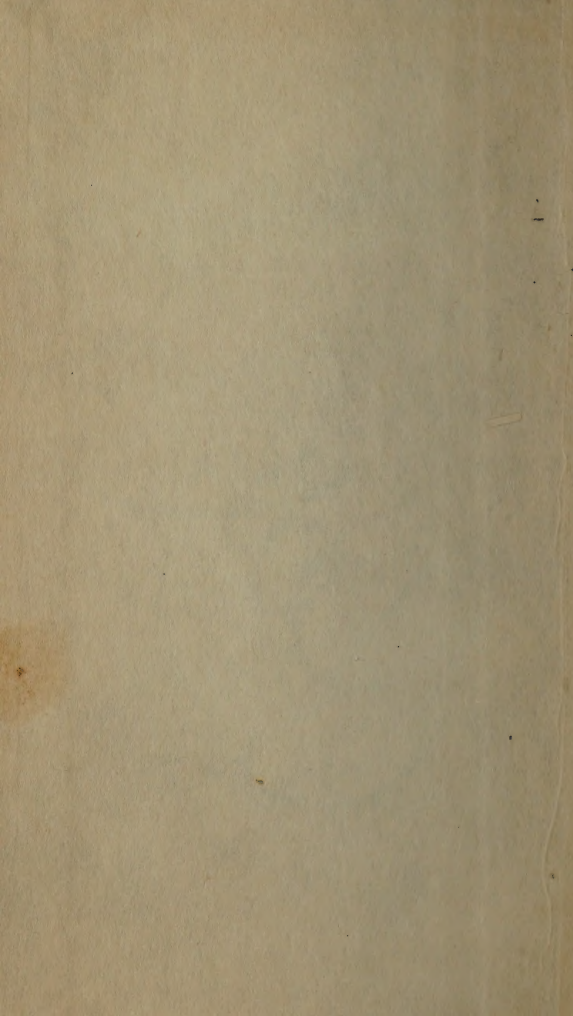


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**CLAIMS OF THE AFRICANS.**

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Longitude East from Washington.

67

66

MAP OF THE

# West Coast of Africa,

FROM

SIERRA LEONE TO CAPE PALMAS,

Including the Colony of

## LIBERIA.

Freetown  
Banana Isles  
Sierra Leone  
Kam  
aranka R.  
Plantain o  
Isles  
Kittims  
Bendo  
Sherbo I.  
Grand Cape Mount  
Galinas R.  
Feys  
Passon R.  
Millsburg  
St. Paul's R.

Bushrod  
Cape Mesurado  
I.  
Mesurado Territory  
Mon  
rovia  
Mesurado R.  
Junk District  
L. Bassa

Trade town  
Teembo  
G. Bassa  
Bassa Territory

Kroo Settra  
Grand  
Sesters

Longitude West from Greenwich.

13

12

11

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# CLAIMS OF THE AFRICANS:

OR

## THE HISTORY

OF THE

## AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

*By the Author of Conversations on the Sandwich Islands Mission, &c. &c.*

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Afric's regenerated sons  
Shall shout to Asia's rapturous song;  
Europe resound her Saviour's fame,  
And Western climes the note prolong.

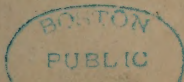
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Depository, No. 47, Cornhill.

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1832.

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## CLAIMS OF THE AFRICANS.

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### CHAPTER I.

My ear is pain'd,  
My soul is sick of every day's report  
Of wrong and outrage, with which earth is fill'd.

"The fourth of July is approaching," said Mr. Granville; "how do you wish to celebrate Independence, my son?"

*Charles.* There is to be drumming, fiddling, firing of cannon, and drinking toasts, at L——, and I should like to have such *great doings* here, father.

*Mr. Granville.* Well, Janette, if it were left to your choice, how should we observe the day?

"O Pa'," said Janette, "I would have just such a celebration as they had in Boston last summer; you know, aunt Caroline wrote us all about it. I can repeat the Ode that was

sung by the Sabbath scholars, at Park street church; I have sung it with cousin Arthur, many a time. It begins—

“This is the youthful choir that comes,  
All dressed so neat and gay;  
As bright as birds that soar and sing,  
And warble all the day.”

*Mr. G.* Go on, Janette, I should like to hear the remainder.

*Janette.* (Recites.)

“This is the youthful choir that loves  
The teacher to obey;  
That meets to sing, and pray, and learn,  
On every Sabbath day.

This is the youthful choir that goes  
Through wind and storm away,  
From peaceful home to Sabbath school,  
To learn salvation’s way.

This is the youthful choir that sings,  
When all the town is gay;  
That praises God with gratitude  
On Independent day.”

*Mr. G.* I admire the lines you have repeated, but think there ought to have been a sermon, or an address, as well as singing.

*Janette.* Why Pa’; have you forgotten what aunt Caroline said about Dr. Wisner’s address on that occasion?

*Mr. G.* I have, my daughter; but I am happy to find your memory so good. What did she say about it?

*Janette.* That it was the best address to little children she ever heard or read; that she was surprised to learn that God had expressed so much love and interest for little children, from one end of the Bible to the other.

*Mr. G.* I highly approve of Sunday school celebrations on the fourth of July, and will use my influence to have one this year; but I cannot give up my plan of having an address and collection in favor of the American Colonization Society. I will try to get the Sabbath school and all its friends together in the morning, and have the other meeting in the afternoon.

*Janette.* That was exactly the way they did in Boston last summer. Aunt Caroline wrote about that meeting too; I am very glad she is coming to see us so soon; Ma' says she expects her every day.

*Charles.* Pa', what is the Colonization Society doing? I never heard anything about it, till I read what aunt Caroline wrote.

*Mr. G.* It has done, and is still doing great things, and you ought to become acquainted with its history; but it will take me a long time to tell you all I know concerning it; however, after school you may come down

to the office, and if I am disengaged, I will begin this afternoon.

*Janette.* Pa', may Clara and I come too?

"You may all come," said Mr. Granville, as he took his hat and walked out of the house.

The children went to school, but they almost counted the hours and minutes before they should be dismissed, and be at liberty to visit their father at his office, a privilege they were seldom allowed to enjoy.

At length the happy moment arrived, and they were delighted to find him alone, sitting by his large table with a new map of Africa unrolled and spread upon the table, and a chair set for each of the little guests. After they were seated, Mr. Granville said, "I suppose the first question you wish to ask is, 'What is the design of the Colonization Society?'"

*Charles and Janette together.* Yes, Pa'.

*Mr. G.* Their object in forming a society, was to provide a good home in Africa, for all the free black people in America, who wish to go back to the land of their fathers.

*Charles.* Who began the colonizing business? and when was it commenced?

*Mr. G.* It would be difficult to answer your questions in a few words, for the coloniz-

ing system was agitated by many, nearly or quite fifty years ago ; and different persons proposed a variety of places which they thought suitable for a colony. South America, and some part of the western states or territories were mentioned, but after much inquiry and repeated discussions, the western coast of Africa was considered the most eligible.

*Janette.* Where was the society formed?

*Mr. G.* At the city of Washington. A few patriotic gentlemen met and framed a constitution, which was adopted by the society the last week in December, 1816, and on January 1, 1817, another meeting was called, at which the Hon. Henry Clay was chosen chairman, and Mr. Dougherty, secretary. If I should repeat over the names of the first officers that were elected by the society, I suppose not one of you would remember them till you reached the house.

*Charles.* I think I should, Pa'; and so should I—and I too, said Janette and Clara.

*Mr. G.* The Hon. Bushrod Washington was elected president, the Hon. Mr. Crawford of Georgia, Hon. Mr. Clay of Kentucky, Hon. Mr. Phillips of Massachusetts, Hon. J. E. Howard, S. Smith, J. C. Herbert of Maryland, Col. Rutgers of New York, J. Taylor, Esq. of Virginia, Gen. Jackson, at

this time President of the United States, then of Tennessee, R. Ralston and R. Rush, Esquires, of Pennsylvania, Gen. Mason of the District of Columbia, and the Rev. Robert Finley of New Jersey, were chosen vice presidents. Now, children, I have mentioned the names of all these officers, that you may see how important the object of the society was, in the estimation of many of the first men in the nation, nine of whom lived in slave holding States. Indeed, it may be said to have originated in the south, and the legislature of Virginia passed several resolutions in favor of colonizing, a great many years ago. President Jefferson and President Monroe were always friendly to the scheme, and wrote and spoke of it in the highest terms of approbation, on a variety of occasions. I have not time to tell you all the changes this society experienced, during the few earliest years of its existence, but I will just say that it was praised by very few, censured by many, and thought to be a visionary plan that could never be carried into execution by most. The northern people suspected that it was contrived by the slave owners at the south, to rivet more securely the chains of slavery, and the promoters of the society were charged with being actuated by base and selfish mo-

tives, in wishing to remove all the free people of color, that the slaves might have no example of liberty among people of their own complexion.

*Charles.* Did the northern people have sufficient evidence that their suspicions were well founded?

*Mr. G.* No, I do not think they had; jealousy is not apt to be reasonable. It was not long after the prejudices at the north began to yield, and the public interest to awake in its favor, before it was attacked at the south with much virulence, and charged with having infringed upon the rights of slave holders, and sowed the seeds of trouble and anxiety throughout the slave States.

*Janette.* What could the society do with the north and south against them?

*Mr. G.* The men who composed it, were eminent for their talents and the high offices they sustained, and were too deeply concerned for the welfare of their country, to be much affected by the doubts of the faint hearted, or the taunting sneers of the ignorant. They felt that they were laboring for future generations, that the cause was approved of heaven and would prosper; therefore they persevered in their efforts, to enlighten the public sentiment and raise funds. They determined to

solicit the aid of the general and state governments, wherever the way was prepared. During the summer of 1817, they made preparations for sending two agents to Africa by the way of England, for the purpose of gaining all the information that could be furnished in that country.

The Rev. Samuel John Mills and the Rev. Ebenezer Burgess were appointed to this service, and instructed to explore the western coast of Africa, and if practicable, to purchase of the native tribes or some of the European governments, a tract of land suitable for the settlement of a colony. These gentlemen had long been deeply interested in behalf of the people of color, and cheerfully engaged in the hazardous enterprise. They embarked at Philadelphia, in the ship *Electra*, on the 16th of November, 1817. Capt. Williams, the master of the ship, was a very worthy man, and spared no pains to make the passengers (six in number) comfortable and happy. The crew were unusually moral and temperate for those days, and commonly attended evening prayers.

The time passed pleasantly away, till they were overtaken by a severe storm and gale of wind on the 7th of December. It commenced on Sabbath evening, and continued with

increasing violence till the next afternoon, when the captain despaired of saving the ship. After cutting away her masts and clearing the deck, he told the passengers and crew that he had done all he could do for them; however, he remained upon deck with great firmness and composure till after three o'clock, although dashed by almost every wave. Some of the gentlemen entreated him to come down into the cabin and put on dry clothing; after a while he consented, but he had scarcely got half way down, before he was followed by the mate, who whispered in his ear, and the captain immediately turned and went back to the deck, followed by his two little boys, one twelve, the other fourteen. The ship was fast drifting towards the breakers which were seen directly astern. The sea dashed with dreadful fury against a ledge of rocks towards which the ship seemed rapidly hastening. "We are gone for this world," said the captain, in utter despair, as the surf rose high above the ledge. He ordered his sons into the boat with one of his most active sailors, and stepping in after them, cut the cordage and let her fall off. She was overset in the fall, and the smallest boy washed away, while the rest clung to the keel till she righted, and then they succeeded

in getting in, although she was half full of water. They rose on the summit of a few receding waves, and then vanished forever!

“O dear, Pa’, how very distressing,” exclaimed the children; “was the ship swallowed up too?”

*Mr. G.* No, my children; you shall hear how wonderfully it was preserved. A line of rocks were seen just before them, which extended both ways as far as they could see, and destruction seemed inevitable. Mr. Burgess had not been on deck for a long time, but in this moment of consternation, when death stared them in the face, and every one expected to be in eternity within a few minutes, he went up, and all the crew crowded around him, begging to be commended to the mercy of God. He tried to compose them, and lifted up his heart and voice in prayer; at the same moment, Mr. Mills with his fellow passengers below, were prostrate in fervent prayer. When the ship was within a few rods of the rocks, a strong current carried it to the right hand of the reef, where the water was much deeper. The mate felt one ray of hope, ordered the rudder to be moved, and soon had the joy of perceiving the ship move along in a line almost exactly parallel to the

reef, to the very extremity, and then crossed over just grazing it. As she passed, every one exclaimed, "It is the work of God!"

*Charles.* No wonder they did, Pa'; I never heard of such an escape.

*Mr. G.* The night following was dark and gloomy, yet joyful. The storm had considerably abated, and when they examined the ship on Tuesday morning, they felt thankful to find the hull sound, though masts, spars and sails were all gone. On the 10th, they were discovered from St. Malo in France; boats and a pilot went out to them, and before dark they were all safe on shore, without the loss of a single article of their property. After being detained nearly a week at St. Malo, Mr. Mills and Mr. Burgess proceeded to Havre-de-Grace, from whence they took passage in a packet to England, and in two days arrived at London, where they were received with great cordiality, by all the generous friends of the oppressed Africans. They were presented to His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, at that time President of the English African Institution, by Mr. Wilberforce, member of Parliament; they were soon after introduced by the same gentleman to Lord Bathurst, Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, and to a long list of

other Christian philanthropists, who with united voices were proclaiming the wrongs and claims of Africa.

During their stay in England, the agents received letters of introduction and recommendation to the Governor of Sierra Leone, and other officers there, whose assistance would be necessary in the prosecution of their mission. They sailed from England in the ship *Mary*, February 7, 1818, and as they lay off Cape de Verds Islands on the 12th of March, their hearts were gladdened with a view of Africa. There, do you see the de Verds near the African coast?

*Charles.* Yes, Pa'.

*Mr. G.* What rivers do you find on the west coast?

*Charles.* The Gambia, Kamaranka, Sherbro, and Senegal.

*Mr. G.* The French own a beautiful little island in the last river, about ten miles from its mouth. It is called St. Louis, and commands the trade of the river, and is a military, as well as a commercial station, containing five or six thousand souls.

*Charles.* What place is that, Pa'? pointing to a small spot on the map.

*Mr. G.* The island Goree; this also belongs to the French. It is a barren spot, but very

healthy, and is a place of resort for multitudes of European invalids. Sometimes within the circumference of a quarter of a mile, you may find five or six thousand people. Do you see the mouth of the Gambia, between Banna and Banian Point?

*Charles.* Yes, Pa', I do.

*Mr. G.* Into this river the ship Mary entered the 13th of March, and Mr. Mills and Mr. Burgess landed at a little village on the Point, called St. Mary's; it was a new place, containing seven or eight hundred persons, about thirty of whom were Europeans. From this vicinity, hundreds of slaves were smuggled away by night in canoes, about the time of the agents' visit.

*Charles.* What is smuggling, Pa'?

*Mr. G.* Carrying out of the country, or bringing into it, things which are forbidden by law.

The region around St. Mary's looked almost exactly like the large prairies in the western States, with here and there a tree of enormous size. Mr. Burgess measured one of them, and found its circumference forty feet!

*Clara.* What kind of tree was it, Pa'?

*Mr. G.* It was called the *bread tree*; known in botanical books as the *Adansonia*, from Adanson, a celebrated French naturalist.

Charles, how would you measure a tree to get at its circumference?

*Charles.* Put a line round the body and then measure my line.

*Mr. G.* Yes; that is right. After staying a few days at St. Mary's, Mr. Mills and Mr. Burgess went down to Sierra Leone. The river of that name, is ten or twelve miles wide at its mouth. Freetown makes a very pretty appearance, and the beautiful white church on Leicester mountain, stands in full view as you sail up the river. Beyond the white church, the green ridges and peaks of mountains towering one above another, make a delightful prospect.

*Janette.* Pa', how came a church there?

*Mr. G.* It was built by the Church Missionary Society in England. You shall sometime hear about it. There is a great deal to be learned about Africa, for till within a few years, very little indeed has been known about Central Africa.

*Charles.* One of the scholars asked the master to-day about the river Niger, and he told him that he believed the mystery was at last solved, that it did not fall into the Lake Tschad, nor disappear in the sands of the desert, but flowed into the ocean near Benin.

*Mr. G.* I have just seen a notice of the return of Richard and John Lander, from their perilous travels in Africa. They say that the current flows about four miles an hour, and is divided into several branches before it comes to the ocean. They say it is ten miles wide just before it divides. The larger branch is called the *Nun*.

*Charles.* How long do you think it is?

*Mr. G.* Fifteen hundred or two thousand miles. If it should prove navigable for steamboats through its whole course, how soon the gospel and the productions of every country will be carried into the very heart of Africa. America and all Europe will form settlements, and mutually assist in bringing multitudes of those dark tribes under the influence of Christianity and civilization.

I cannot spend any more time with you, this afternoon.

*Janette.* Pa', may we not come and see you again, to-morrow, and hear more about Mr. Mills and Mr. Burgess?

*Mr. G.* Yes, you may come; and if I can attend to you, I will tell you where they went, and what they accomplished while in Africa.

When was the Colonization Society formed? Where? What was its object? Who first went to Africa to select a plan for a colony?

## CHAPTER II.

Light of the world arise ! arise !  
On Africa thy glories shed ;  
Fetter'd in darkness deep she lies  
With weeping eye, and drooping head.

THE children were very much interested in their father's relation, and they obtained the consent of their mother to go the next afternoon from school to the office, to hear further about the Colonization Society. When they arrived, their father was engaged in conversation with Mr. Mason, the minister, and Col. Henshaw, upon the impropriety of spending the approaching anniversary of American Independence, in the manner that had been customary in that place. Col. Henshaw said, he thought more youth had been corrupted, and tempted to vice and intemperance on that day, than had generally been acknowledged, and he sincerely hoped some new measures would be adopted to render the occasion improving to the young people. Mr. Granville was superintendent of the Sabbath school, and proposed to have all the scholars

meet in the church, hear an address in the morning, and after the service, form a procession, and march to *Elm Grove*, where he engaged to erect a slight bower, and in the name of the parents and friends of the Sabbath school promised to furnish them with suitable refreshments. Mr. Mason and Col. Henshaw approved the plan, and Charles, Janette, and Clara were so overjoyed they could with difficulty refrain from a boisterous expression of their pleasure.

Mr. Mason had been previously engaged to deliver a discourse, and take up a collection in favor of the Colonization Society, and he felt strengthened, when he found how deeply concerned Col. Henshaw and Mr. Granville were for its prosperity. The children felt somewhat impatient to have the gentlemen go, though they were delighted with the prospect of having a fine time on the fourth of July.

Mr. Granville waited on his friends to the door, and then said to the children, "Who can tell me where we left Mr. Mills and Mr. Burgess yesterday?"

"I can tell; and so can I; and I too," said Charles, Janette, and Clara; "it was at the English colony, in Sierra Leone."

*Mr. G.* During their stay at that colony,

the officers of government, both civil and military, paid them the most polite attentions. They found a society in operation at Free-town, which had been formed at the suggestion of Captain Paul Cuffee. At that time John Kizzell was president.

*Charles.* Pa', who were those men?

*Mr. G.* Paul Cuffee was a colored man, born on one of the Elizabeth Islands, near New Bedford, in Massachusetts. His early years were spent in poverty and obscurity. But in after life, by his vigorous mind, and uncommon energy of character, he rose from his debased condition to wealth and respectability. He early manifested a desire to meliorate the sufferings of his brethren in bondage; and as he advanced in life, his enterprise and sympathies were enlisted to raise them to civil and religious liberty in the land of their forefathers. In the prosecution of his benevolent plans, he purchased a vessel, made a voyage to Sierra Leone, returned to the United States by the way of England, where he communicated his views and wishes to the officers of the African Institution. Encouraged and cheered by increasing prospects of accomplishing his object, he offered some of the free people of color in Boston a passage to Africa, where they might form a set-

tlement on the western coast. About forty persons accompanied him on his second voyage, the greater part of whom went from Boston. So many were anxious to go, that had his means been equal he might have carried hundreds, but this single expedition cost him almost four thousand dollars.

Mr. Mills had been acquainted with this wonderful man several years before he went to Africa, and was strongly attached to him. Hearing of his sickness a short time before he sailed to Africa, he made a journey of a hundred miles, to comfort him and to obtain his counsel and assistance in maturing some plan by which they mutually hoped to benefit a large portion of the free colored population in the United States.

*Janette.* Did he recover from that sickness, Pa'?

*Mr. G.* No, he died in a very happy frame of mind in September, 1817.

*Charles.* What became of the people he carried to Africa?

*Mr. G.* I never learned their individual history, but I have been told that not one of them ever wished to return to America. Captain Cuffee knew this country well, and Africa far better than most men who had visited it,

and to his dying day he advocated the colonization plan with great zeal.

*Janette.* What a pity that he died, Pa'.

*Mr. G.* To short-sighted mortals it appeared a dark providence ; but God is more jealous of his own glory than any of his most faithful servants, and doubtless had wise and benevolent reasons for removing him at such a time, though to us clouds and darkness covered them.

*Clara.* Was John Kizzell as good a man as Paul Cuffee ?

*Mr. G.* He had a strong mind, and had acquired some general knowledge, and gave much evidence of being under the influence of Christian principles.

*Charles.* Was he a native of Africa ?

*Mr. G.* Yes, but when very young he was brought a slave to America. By some means he acquired a good common education ; obtained his freedom ; returned to Africa ; was prospered in trade ; believed himself called to the ministry ; built a church and preached the gospel to his countrymen. When Mr. Burgess and Mr. Mills were in Africa, Kizzell had been there twenty years. He owned five or six hundred acres of land in the Sherbro country, upon an island of that name ; the

name of his town was *Campelar*; his influence was great among the neighboring tribes, and he was every where respected. His knowledge of the various languages on the coast made him extremely useful to the American agents. When they had finished their business at the British colony, Mr. Kizzell assisted them in their preparations for an exploring tour down the coast to Sherbro. *Here* it is, on this map of Liberia, about midway between Sierra Leone and Cape Mesurado. Campelar village was encircled by *mangrove trees*, which somewhat resemble the willows on the Mississippi, below New Orleans, and perhaps still more the *Bannian* tree, of India; like that, the mangrove boughs descend and strike their roots into the earth, take root, and form an almost impervious range of trunks and foliage.

*Charles.* How did they proceed from the English colony?

*Mr. G.* They engaged a sloop of ten or fifteen tons, having an African captain and crew. Mr. Mills and Mr. Burgess embarked the thirtieth of August, accompanied by Mr. Kizzell, Mr. Martin, and Mr. Anderson, the pilot. The first day they sailed down the coast to the Banana Isles. See if you can find them on the map.

*Janette.* Here they are, Pa'.

*Mr. G.* They cast anchor off those islands, and Mr. Kizzell introduced the agents to Thomas Caulker, the head man, who came to meet them at the landing place, and very urgently invited them to walk up to his house, which they found furnished with chairs, tables, and many other things in use among civilized people. After hearing the object of the mission stated with clearness by Mr. Mills, Caulker seemed pleased, and offered them a tract of land on the Kamaranka river, which he claimed as his territory. Without making a bargain, the gentlemen proceeded to the *Plantains*, another cluster of little islands, which you will find south of the Bananas. At these the party stopped, and were received by George Caulker, nephew of Thomas. He had spent several years in England, and had the manners of a European. At first George seemed a little alarmed at the prospect of a colony in his neighborhood, but after hearing the agents' statement, he entered heartily into the views of his uncle, and urged them to settle at the mouth of the river Kamaranka.

Having their minds fixed upon the island of Sherbro, they did not stop long at the Plantains, but soon set sail and reached that

island in about three days after they embarked at Sierra Leone.

*Charles.* How large is Sherbro Island?

*Mr. G.* Twenty-two miles one way, and twelve the other. They landed at *Samo*, a small town containing twenty or thirty huts, and were received by a brother of the chief. He told them, as his brother was not at home, he could not "*turn one way, or the other*;" meaning, I suppose, that he dared not hazard an opinion respecting the proposed colony. From thence they went to a little island called *York*, which they judged to be about two miles in length, and one in breadth. In this place they found the ruins of an old castle, which could not have been built less than two hundred years. The next day they went to *Bendou*, and found two kings, named *Somano*, and *Safah*, both seated in the *palaver house*. "What house is that, Pa'," said Charles. His father replied, It is in Africa what a court-house is in the United States, and a council house among the Indians; and is built in much the same style as the latter. This one had only a conical roof, supported by a few posts, but it sheltered the party from the scorching rays of a tropical sun.

*Somano* was dressed in a gown, pantaloons, hat and shoes. *Safah* was a most laughable

figure ; his face was very broad, even for an African, and his form large ; his silver-laced coat, and once elegant military hat, but illy corresponded with his naked feet. They heard the object stated by the agents, who were surrounded by a considerable number of almost entirely naked people, who had assembled to hear what the *white men* had to say. Mr. Kizzell acted as interpreter. These kings said they were younger brothers to king Sherbro, and could do nothing without him. They had plenty of land which they had never cultivated. Mr. Mills said he did not believe they cultivated one acre in fifty, and he was not certain that they did one in five hundred. They were very indolent. The kings said if they sold lands they wanted the Agents to bring out clothes and other things for pay. One of them wanted a *great hat* and some shoes ; the other a *silver headed cane*, and a *black horse tail* tied on a handsome handle, which in Africa is the badge of royalty. When the *palaver*, or, as the Indians would say, the *talk* was ended, and the gentlemen walked away, they saw a little hut not much larger than a spread umbrella, which was called the *devil's house* ; it contained shreds of cloth, shells, and other things which, I suppose, were used in witchcraft. Near this

hut was a thicket, almost impenetrable, the vines and brush were so thickly interwoven, called the *devil's bush*. The law of the Purrahs condemn to death every woman found in it.

*Charles.* What was the Purrah?

*Mr. G.* A class of men similar to the English free masons, though it seems they did not depend upon signs to know each other, for they were tattooed, that is, they punctured the skin, and then rubbed it with indelible ink or other coloring materials, in a variety of patterns, as their fancies dictated. I presume you have all seen foolish boys at school prick the letters of their name on their hands or their arms, and rub ink or prussian blue into it, which would always remain visible.

*Charles.* Yes, Pa', I have, and George Temple wanted I should prick the form of an anchor on my arm; he said if I would, he would make the picture of a heart on his; but I told him you would be displeased if I did.

*Mr. G.* I should have been highly displeased to have seen you disfigured like the heathen, and *tattooed* after their fashions; it is a very foolish practice.

The agents crossed over Sherbro Bay, which is full of little islands, and stopped at

*Yonie*, the residence of old king Sherbro and his son, Prince Kong Couber. Mr. Kizzell went on shore and paved the way for a palaver, which was appointed the next day. When the hour arrived, Mr. Mills and Mr. Burgess, with their interpreter and attendants, went on shore, and found the prince waiting at the landing to conduct them to the king's house. They found him seated at the door, barefoot, dressed in a calico gown, with a cap and three cornered hat on his head, a silver-headed cane in his left hand, and a black horse tail in his right. He rose and led the way to a large Cola tree, where the palaver was to be held. Sherbro sat on an armed chair, the prince on a mat before him, and Mr. Mills and Mr. Burgess near the tree, directly in front. Many had assembled to see and hear; the men formed a circle on the ground; the women and children sat behind the men, some on mats, the rest on the ground.

*Clara.* How were the spectators dressed?

*Mr. G.* Some wore long, loose gowns, others cotton blankets; many of the youth of both sexes wore folds of native cloth around their bodies, very much like the natives at Ceylon, while the children wore no clothes at all.

*Janette.* They must have looked very much like a group of Sandwich Islanders.

*Mr. G.* Yes, I presume they did. As you read about the heathen in the savage or barbarous state, you will perceive that they every where appear like children, though as large as men and women.

Before the palaver began, the *present* (without which the natives would not enter upon business) was spread out upon a mat in the centre, and one of the gentlemen said, through the interpreter,—“Good and great men, in America, have sent us to talk to king Sherbro about the children of those African people, who, in times past, have been carried from Africa to America. Some of them are free to go where they please, and some of them think of returning to the land of their fathers. Some of the people in our country think of helping them, and have sent us to speak with Sherbro and other kings, to see if lands may be given to these strangers, to sit down quietly. The people who come, by cultivating the ground, and by a knowledge of the arts, will increase the necessities and conveniences of life. We come as messengers of peace and good tidings—no arms in our hands—wish no war. If the kings consent to our wishes, and the people obtain a

quiet settlement here, we think they will establish schools to instruct all the children. They will bring the book of God with them; and when you are able to understand it, we hope it will make you more happy while you live here, and after you die. What word will king Sherbro send back to our country?" The prince Kong Couber managed the whole business; and though he said, "All you say is well, very well," yet he expressed much dissatisfaction with the agents, because they had previously called upon his uncles Somano and Safah, and nothing would pacify him till those kings were sent for. The next day was the Sabbath, and Mr. Mills and Mr. Burgess felt anxious to do something for the spiritual good of those dark minded heathen; and calling upon the prince, they told him how the Sabbath was observed in Christian countries, and that God's book was explained to the people. Kong Couber answered, "All people should be glad to hear God's book—it is the best book—God's palaver is the old and good palaver." Mr. Mills then stated to him the belief of Christians respecting the creation of the world—the fall of man—the way to be saved—the resurrection—day of judgment—heaven and hell. The prince listened with fixed attention to all he said, and when

Mr. Mills ceased, Mr. Kizzell said, "I have lived twenty years at Sherbro, but in all that time the island has never been visited by two so good men, on so good an errand."

Somano and Safah had been sent for, and the agents waited three days without hearing from them; then an embassy, consisting of Thomas and George Caulker, Martin, and one of Sherbro's subjects, were fitted out, with instructions to bring them before they slept. They brought both kings the same evening, but the death of one of the wives of Kong Couber retarded the progress of the negotiation.

*Janette.* Pa', how many wives do the men have in Africa?

*Mr. G.* As many as they have money to buy; some have but two, others ten, twenty, or thirty, and I heard of one African prince that had three thousand. The first wife is called the *head wife*, and is treated with more respect than the others. The husband makes them all work.

*Clara.* Do they wail and cry, Pa', like the natives of the Sandwich Islands?

*Mr. G.* They do when those they respect and love are removed by death. A favorite head man died, the people flocked together from all parts of the country where he was

known, and during the *cry*, or the time prescribed for wailing, dancing, and beating upon gongs, (a kind of drum,) I was told they drank *twenty puncheons of rum*! an article of which the natives are as fond as the Indians, and it is nearly impossible to transact any kind of business with the head men, without having *rum* one part of the present.

*Clara.* What things do their presents commonly consist of?

*Mr. G.* Tobacco, powder, rum, calico, beads, looking-glasses, and showy trinkets of almost every description. The *trade goods* consist of these things, with the addition of iron pots of different sizes, fire arms, clothes, and other things, I presume, that I do not now remember. A great part of the intemperance and vice every where visible on the coast, was introduced, and has been increased by the wicked slave traders.

*Janette.* Pa', how long did the agents have to wait for the funeral of Kong Couber's wife?

*Mr. G.* Until Friday; then the whole party met again under the shade of the same beautiful Cola tree; all the kings waved their black horse tails with as much self complacency as the ancient emperors raised their golden sceptres. The palaver lasted several hours; many objections were started, and an-

swered at considerable length, but nothing definite was settled. The agents were permitted to explore the coast, and travel into the interior, and if they chose, they had leave to visit all the kings and head men, &c. It was very evident that these kings did not know how to deal with men of integrity and honor, having never had much intercourse with foreigners, except slave traders, who are exceedingly vile.

*Clara.* Are slave traders those people who steal men and children and carry them off and sell them?

*Mr. G.* Those persons who steal men, women and children, are called *kidnappers*, who are usually employed by the slave traders. I could tell you a great many very affecting stories about the poor Africans who have been sold into slavery, if I had time.

*Janette.* I wish you would find time, Pa'; cannot you have time this evening?

*Mr. G.* (Taking out his watch,) I have an engagement immediately after tea, and we have now but a few moments more to spend; you must ask your mother to tell you the history of the slave trade, as she has opportunity. I will give you an account of one more Sabbath spent by the agents at Sherbro. It was a serious question with them, whether it

was their duty to go and preach the gospel in the villages, or to remain quiet, speaking only to such as Providence threw in their way. Upon reflection, they thought it best to converse only with individuals, so they sung psalms and hymns, and conversed from the fourth commandment with Kong Cauber and others, who seemed desirous of receiving instruction. The prince was not insensible to the advantages which might be derived from the introduction of schools, and knowledge of agriculture, and of the mechanic arts; yet he seemed to have many fears that if a colony should come and settle in the midst of them, it might wish to bear rule, &c.

On Monday they obtained a canoe, hired three men to paddle them, and started for the Boom river, which is about four miles from the river Shebar, (there it is on the map of Liberia, a little north of Jenkins' Island). After rowing between twenty and thirty miles, they came to the town of James Tucker, a dark mulatto of about forty-five, who had risen from obscurity to wealth and power, having under him five or six hundred people.

*Charles.* How did he acquire his riches?

*Mr. G.* By trade; he had furnished a great many ships with slaves, but at that time was not deeply concerned in that detestable

traffic. The arrival of strangers was announced by the firing of a six pounder. Mr. Tucker treated them with great attention, gave them a house to occupy, and prepared them a good dinner of mutton, and a variety of vegetables. Mr. Mills said, "We might have forgotten where we were, if the head wife had not been obliged to come forward to eat the first spoonful, to assure her suspicious lord that she had infused no poison in the dish." Mr. Tucker devoted the remainder of the day to his guests, appeared highly pleased with their plan, and offered them land upon the Boom, if they found it suited their purpose. When the agents spoke of the advantages of trade which might be carried on with the colonists, in the productions of Africa, Tucker seemed gratified and said, "Then we shall not have to catch the people and sell them as we have done." One of Tucker's people, on learning the object of the visitors, asked him "how it could be true that the Americans would let the people of color come back to Africa, when they were so eager to buy slaves?"

*Charles.* Do you wonder he made the inquiry, Pa'?

*Mr. G.* No, Charles, I do not. When Mr. Mills and Mr. Burgess arrived, they pre-

sented Mr. Tucker with a dozen knives and forks and a little tobacco, of which the natives are particularly fond; this probably secured to them more attention, than they would have had without a present. Before they retired to rest, they were furnished with a warm bath, which is a great luxury to travellers, especially in warm countries. It was a pleasant sight to see the natives coming in from the plantations at sunset, laden with their implements of industry, fruits, baskets, and wood; all came forward to pay their respects to the white gentlemen. They were introduced by Tucker to the king of Cotton, whose name was Soyarrah, and whose extensive territory lay between the Boom and Deong rivers. Mr. Kizzell said he had but a handful of people, though his land would measure thirty by twenty miles. Soyarrah had been so often imposed upon by foreigners, that he had become very suspicious, and cautious; however he cordially approved the plan of colonizing, and offered to sell as much land as they wanted, and receive pay in goods. Tucker and all his people are extremely superstitious; it is common for them to accuse each other of witchcraft, and of turning themselves into alligators and leopards to catch the people for slaves, and when condemned, they are sold

into slavery, or made to drink a fatal poison called the *red water*. But notwithstanding his ignorance and superstition, he was considered a head man, and exerted great influence, being connected by marriage with most of the leading chiefs in that region. One of Kong Couber's daughters, and a sister of Caulker, were among his wives. He was almost the only man in the Sherbro country, who had ever attempted to raise cattle. He exchanged two goats with a sea captain for a small cow, in 1811, and seven years afterwards he had thirty head of cattle, of a good size, most of them fat and lively; cattle do not ever feed on hay there, but run about in the woods and supply their own wants the year round. Sheep, goats, and fowls were very plenty.

The next day, as the travellers were examining the country, they came upon some of the natives at work in a rice field; at the sight of white men, the women and children ran and hid in the long grass, and the men fled to the woods, till the well known voice of the kind hearted Kizzell brought them back.— They seemed delighted to see the company, but their pleasure was mingled with fear.

*Janette.* Do you not think they were fearful of being stolen, Pa'?

*Mr. G.* Yes; I presume it was fear of

that, which made them hide. Mr. Mills thought he had never witnessed more beautiful natural scenery, on the banks of any American river, than was displayed on both sides of the river Boom. When Mr. Tucker's guests took leave, he presented them with a cotton blanket and a basket of rice, for the managers of the Colonization Society. We must go home to tea now, and take another opportunity to follow the gentlemen on their journey. You must remember that we leave Mr. Mills and Mr. Burgess just ready to depart from Mr. Tucker's.

*Charles.* (Looking on the map.) Pa', I do not find the river Deong here.

*Mr. G.* I presume not; the Deong, the Boom, and the Bagroo are branches of the river Sherbro.

Who was Paul Cuffee? and who John Kezzell? What places were visited by Rev. Mr. Burgess and Mr. Mills? What are *kidnappers*? Tell what you can recollect of the Kings Sherbro—Safah—Somano—Soyarrah, and the Chiefs.

### CHAPTER III.

I would not have a slave to till my ground,  
To carry me, to fan me while I sleep,  
And tremble when I wake, for all the wealth  
That sinews bought and sold have ever earn'd.

THE next morning, Mr. Granville could not resist the importunities of his children, to hear farther from Mr. Mills and Mr. Burgess after they left Mr. Tucker's, therefore he devoted to them an hour after breakfast, and told them that the gentlemen were rowed down to the mouth of the Boom, where they arrived about seven in the evening. The wind being fresh and the night dark, they thought it most prudent to go on shore. The head man of a little village called *Runta*, received them very courteously, and furnished them with a comfortable room, and bed, both of which were hung round with mats of very beautiful workmanship, somewhat like those sent by the missionaries from the Sandwich islands. The chief's house, with nearly or quite a dozen others, were overshadowed by a cluster of palm, cocoa nut, banana, and plantain trees.

The rice fields were back of the houses, and the path which led to them was lined with sugar cane, cotton shrubs, and cassada plants. The whole was encircled by forest trees covered with vines of the most beautiful foliage. Mr. Mills remarked, "were it the abode of innocence, it might be esteemed a garden of Eden."

*Clara.* Pa', what is *cassada*?

*Mr. G.* A plant and root resembling our artichokes. Tapioca is prepared from it.

*Charles.* Where did the agents go from this beautiful place?

*Mr. G.* To Sherbro Bay, which they crossed, and when off Yonie they went on shore to see their friend Kong Couber. He was pleased to see them again, and inquired with much interest when they would come again, that if they would come the next day, the head men should meet together, and settle the whole business to their satisfaction.

He was told that others from America might come, but probably they should never return, but that if they lived, Kong Couber should receive from them letters and presents which would convince him, that his kindness had not been forgotten. The prince seeing them about to go, gave them a goat, and sent two mats to their *American fathers*. He walked with them

to the beach, and at parting gave them his hand, saying in English, "May God bless you, and give you a good voyage to your country." After they were on board their schooner, and had set sail, they saw the prince sitting in a pensive and melancholy attitude beneath the shade of an orange tree.

*Charles.* To what place did the schooner sail?

*Mr. G.* To Bendou, the residence of King Somano. The gentlemen found Safah in the palaver house with Somano and his people trying the queen for witchcraft. She had been made to drink the *red water*, and having survived, her innocence was proved; then in her turn she had brought a charge of false accusation, and how long the palaver had been held when the travellers arrived, I do not know. They were told that the queen's people had killed an elephant within a few days, which to the Africans is a sure token of the favor of their gods. Great honor was put upon the men who had performed the heroic exploit, and they with their wives occupied the most conspicuous seats. The richness of the dresses and ornaments of the elephant hunters, exceeded any before witnessed in that part of the country. After some conversation with the kings, who passed many

censures upon Kong Couber for taking too much upon himself at the *Yonie palaver*, they parted from them pleasantly, and went back to York island, only six or eight miles, anchored near the shore, and staid till morning. April 16, they hired a canoe, and began to ascend the river Deong, which is a mile wide at the mouth; this river is divided into two channels by a series of islands, which extend from twenty to thirty miles. After ascending about ten miles, a stream falls into the Deong in the right channel, from Soyarrah's territory.

At that place the water is fresh, and a high ledge of rocks rises in the middle of the river; the agents ordered their men to paddle towards it; this they dared not do, for they believed it was inhabited by demons who would punish, if not destroy them. They were commanded to proceed with considerable authority; they did so, but with much fear and trembling, all the way throwing water in the air, as if to appease the evil spirits, into whose dominions they had so reluctantly entered.

The natives say these rocks have often crossed the river above and below their present resting place, to the terror of the whole country.

In ascending this river, the canoe passed several small villages, that seemed in a thriv-

ing condition, but the gentlemen saw the ruins of many more, which appeared to have been recently deserted. The desolating march of war and the slave trade are nowhere more visible, than on the fertile banks of the Deong.

The agents were treated kindly at the villages at which they called, especially at the one owned by *Thomas Tittle*, a fair mulatto; when he was a little boy, his father, who was the captain of a slave ship, sent him to England to be educated. His father died not long after, and he returned to Africa almost as ignorant as when he left the country. He spoke English fluently, and appeared intelligent. *Papurrh* is the name of another place on this river, owned by James Cleveland, who had a good education, and was a man of influence, having about five hundred people under him, and being a sort of guardian over four or five towns. *Will Comberbuss* was another chief who lived on this river, and expressed pleasure at the prospect of a colony. He said it would be a good thing to have people come and bring knowledge, for, said he, "the land will produce rice, cotton, coffee, tobacco, and all good things, but the people do not *know*."

*Charles.* Is the land high or low on this river, Pa'?

*Mr. G.* In many places it is low and covered with mangroves, (a species of willow tree,) but over twenty miles above the mouth there is a bluff forty feet high, which extends far enough to build on it a large town. The river in that place is little more than a hundred yards across. It was a lovely spot. The Kurboo mountains approach the river below Papurh, and in many places the Perra mountains rise up in full view.

The agents returned to Sherbro sound on Saturday, and anchored off Campelar, a small village owned by Mr. Kizzell, where they spent the Sabbath. This is a low, unhealthy spot, surrounded by mangroves, but open to the sea breeze. The next day two messengers were sent for king *Fara*, who lived at *Marro*, upon the island of Sherbro, about twelve miles from Campelar. His majesty made his appearance on Wednesday morning, attended by *Rango*, his chief man. He spent most of the day in making inquiries of the interpreters respecting the plans and wishes of the strangers. Thursday the 22d of April, Mr. Mills and Mr. Burgess had an interview with *Fara*, and repeated all the statements which he had heard from Kizzell the day before; *Rango* spoke for him in reply, almost exactly in the style of an Indian chief, saying,

“We hear you; we like your words; may God bless you, give you health and long life; may he bless Kizzell, Martin, and the Caulkers too, because they were good in coming to introduce you. We shall not say much now: Fara, you see, is young, a boy; he will stand behind Sherbro, and will speak the same word as his father. We have not talked with Sherbro—you have; you have seen Caulker, Tucker, Soyarrah. They have offered you lands: which do you fancy most? When a man wants a wife, and goes to a father who has many daughters, he tells the father which he likes best,” &c. He was told that only a small part of the country had been seen, and the agents were not ready to make a selection, and that before they made their choice known to the kings, they must go back to America and return again.

Rango gave them the freedom of his country, the Bagroo in the name of his king, and told them that “*it was wide and vacant.*” Soon after this interview, the party left Campelar and sailed for the mouth of the Bagroo river. This river is of various widths the first six miles; in some places it is a mile wide, in others a mile and a half, and after you have ascended a few miles, the river Banga empties into it from a mouth a quarter of a mile wide,

and a little above, the Robanna enters it on the left, with a mouth one hundred yards wide. This beautiful stream flows out of the Bagroo about fifteen or twenty miles above, and after meandering about twenty or thirty miles, joins it at this place. After ascending ten miles above the Banga, the river *Mano* comes curving and winding along, about one hundred yards wide, till it unites with the Bagroo. The agents selected a spot for a town, at the confluence of the Mano and Bagroo. The Mano mountain, or a ridge of it, terminates very abruptly on the left bank, and adds much to the wildness and beauty of the scenery. Stones, large timber, and good mill sites, with strong indications of abundance of iron ore, satisfied the explorers that they had at length discovered a most eligible spot on which to plant a colony. They were informed that the whole country, from the Mano to the Timmanees, was destitute of inhabitants, a distance of eighty or ninety miles. All the natives on this river appeared hospitable and kind, and very generally expressed a desire for the colonists to arrive. Great attention was paid by them, to whatever the agents said about God's book, schools, &c. &c. The travellers went up the Mano about ten miles, and stopped at a small village called *Tasso*, in full view of

the mount Mano, which has such a gradual ascent, that towns might easily be built if the soil proved fertile. A trading establishment called Liverpool stood just below Tasso, owned by one of the first settlers of Sierra Leone. Mr. Jones, the owner, and his son had lived there many years, and appeared to be well informed Christians. They expressed anxiety for the improvement of the natives. Tasso was a most wicked place. Somango the chief appeared friendly, and took an opportunity to remind Mr. Kizzell of the custom of strangers making a present of wine or rum. Mr. Kizzell said, "Slave traders give you rum to make you quarrel, and sell each other: this is what they want; but the strangers I have brought, come to open your eyes, and not to blind them; and they hope to find and leave you sober, that you may be able to give a true answer, and speak good words." The agents improved their time, and paid a visit to Sologo, the principal man in the Bagroo. He was very aged and feeble, his head and beard as white as snow; his residence was on the island of Robanna, which is about fifteen miles long and five wide, formed by the rivers Bagroo and Robanna. Pa Poosa was the last royal personage they visited; he lived at *Bandasuma*, on the river Banga. This king was

nearly seventy, but he took a deep interest in the mission of the agents, and expressed joy at the prospect of having the rising generation instructed. Many of his counsellors were absent, and did not return till dark. He then sent for Mr. Mills and Mr. Burgess to come to the king's house, to hear their answer. When Mr. Mills arrived at the humble *palace*, he found a wax candle burning against the wall, and the people ready to address him. A brother of Pa Poosa said, "May God bless you, and as you came in health to this country, may you return in health to your own. We are glad to hear what you had to say; we like it well. The old people among us wish you had come before. They are now afraid they will die too soon. They want to see the time when the people will come to this country to teach the children to read and write, and to know the true God. The king says I must tell you he likes the object much; and if the other kings call him to say what is in his heart, he shall say, *give the people land*. The old people will die fools, but if these people come from America, the children will turn and know more than their fathers." Perhaps among all the kings and chiefs, none were more pleasant and amiable than Pa Poosa and Kong Couber; both seemed to

have clearer apprehensions of God and the nature of religion, than any of the others. Kong Couber offered to send two of his sons to America to be educated, and appeared to enter into the spirit of improvement in agriculture and domestic economy. He seemed convinced, that a great revolution in Africa might be effected, by the introduction of wheels, looms, mills, ploughs, and various kinds of labor-saving machinery, schools, teachers, &c.

*Janette.* Pa', do you suppose that the natives had no kind of religion?

*Mr. G.* I fear they had none calculated to make them holy. They had some indistinct notions of a Supreme Being, but thought him perfectly indifferent to the concerns of mankind. They believed that inferior evil spirits continually followed every individual, and occasioned all the suffering that was endured. They showed great anxiety to appease the anger of these demons, and avert the evils they were preparing for them. To do this, they made offerings of such things as they thought would pacify them, and sometimes strewed fruits and flowers around the villages, and spread mats by the way side. Sometimes they prayed under the sacred

trees, or upon the graves of their ancestors. They have great faith in their greegrees.

*Janette.* What are *greegrees*, Pa'?

*Mr. G.* The same as amulets and charms. They are commonly made of leather or silk cut round like a *pin-ball*, and sewed together, enclosing a piece of paper with the word God, written in Arabic. These are generally worn around the neck or arms, and thought to be a sure defence against sickness, and a variety of calamities procured by invisible agencies.— On one occasion, Mr. Mills and Mr. Burgess had a season of prayer in the presence of a native, who said to his friend, “I never knew before, that white men prayed.”

*Charles.* If he had never been acquainted with any white men, except slave-traders, do you think he ever had heard a prayer before?

*Mr. G.* No, Charles, I do not.

*Janette.* How much land did the agents wish to purchase of the kings?

*Mr. G.* A large territory. When they returned to Sierra Leone, they supposed that they could readily obtain a title to three thousand square miles, almost entirely destitute of inhabitants, so fertile and healthy, that with ordinary culture, it would sustain at least twenty thousand inhabitants.

*Charles.* Would it not have required immense labor to clear it fit for cultivation?

*Mr. G.* No, I think not; for Mr. Kizzell offered to clear two or three hundred acres, and said it could not cost more than five or six dollars an acre; and a Mr. Wilson, who once lived in the United States, told Mr. Mills that a good house in the native style, might be built for ten or twelve dollars.

*Janette.* How large, Pa'?

*Mr. G.* Ten feet by fifteen or twenty, is the common size of a native house. The agents left the residence of Pa Poosa on the 2d of May, with two leopard skins as a token of his friendly regards. When they went on board the schooner, they found the men had brought two boat loads of fine oysters, from the oyster banks in that neighborhood.

On their way to Sierra Leone, they called at the Banana isles, and left the messengers furnished by Caulker, and reached Sierra Leone in four days. At this colony they remained about two weeks, visiting the governor, most of the civil and military officers, the clergymen, and many of the colonists; by all of whom they were treated with every mark of attention and hospitality. On the 22d of May, they embarked for the United States by the way of England, grateful for all the in-

formation they had collected, and the apparent success with which their mission had been crowned. As these friends stood upon the quarter deck, taking a last farewell of unhappy Africa, Mr. Mills said to Mr. Burgess, "We may now be thankful to God, and congratulate each other, that the labors and dangers of our mission are past. The prospects are fair, that we shall once more return to our dear native land, and see the faces of our beloved parents and friends." About two weeks after this, he took a heavy cold and was somewhat feverish, but able to walk about and write a little. The usual remedies were applied, and for several days it was thought his health was slowly recovering. But these flattering hopes could not long be indulged, it was evident that an inward fever was preying upon him, which prevented quiet sleep, and often occasioned extreme pains in the head. On the 14th of June he had no fever, and enjoyed a Sabbath of rest. He conversed upon religious subjects with Mr. Burgess, and seemed to be in a very elevated frame of mind. Toward evening he was in much pain, and his mind began to wander; a distressing hiccup came on, which filled his beloved colleague with the most painful apprehensions. Monday his hiccup continued, but he was able to sit up a

little, and walked across the cabin. The following morning the hiccup abated, and he had repeated seasons of quiet sleep, though of short duration; he knew those about him, and answered questions correctly. He seemed fully aware of his situation, and expressed unwavering confidence in God, and a hope full of immortality. Two or three hours after, the "hiccup ceased. There was no convulsion—no deep groan. He gently closed his hands on his breast, as if to engage in some act of devotion, and while a celestial smile settled upon his countenance, and every feature expressed the serenity and meekness of his soul, he ceased to breathe," leaving Africa and the world to mourn the loss of one of the most devoted and benevolent men of the age. Janette, have you ever read the Memoir of this excellent man?

*Janette.* I never did, Pa'.

*Mr. G.* I hope you will ask for it the next time you are entitled to a book from the Sabbath school library. Every scholar and teacher ought to read it.

I must go to the office now: after dinner, I will tell you about the return and efforts of Mr. Burgess and other friends of the Colonization Society.

## CHAPTER IV.

Oh Afric! raise thy voice and weep  
For him who sought to heal thy wo,  
Whose bones beneath the briny deep  
Bleach where the pearl and coral glow.

MR. GRANVILLE fulfilled his engagement, and informed the children that Mr. Burgess returned to the United States by the way of England, in October, 1818.

*Janette.* Pa', when did you say that Mr. Mills died?

*Mr. G.* On the 16th of June, 1818, in the thirty-sixth year of his age.

*Clara.* Was he buried in the sea, Pa'?

*Mr. G.* Yes, my dear; "as the sun was going down, all on board assembled with great seriousness—a circle of mourners—when with painful solemnity, and tender supplications to the God of heaven, his body was deposited beneath the mighty waters, there to rest till that great day, when the sea shall give up her dead."

*Janette.* Pa', do tell us more about Mr. Mills.

*Mr. G.* I will give you a brief sketch of his life and labors, in the hope you will be excited to follow the bright path through which he ascended from earth to heaven; for great and good as he was, each one of you, my children, may attempt as much for the good of your fellow men as he accomplished; and if you live as near to God as he did, you will be a rich blessing to the world. His father was a minister in the State of Connecticut, and his mother was a native of the same State; they were both eminently pious. Samuel John was their seventh child, and by his mother he was given up to God as a missionary in his earliest infancy, and by himself at the time of his conversion, when a youth. From that memorable day when he was translated from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God's dear Son, his heart yearned over the miseries of the heathen world. During his whole college course the glory of his Saviour in the salvation of sinners seemed to be ever uppermost in his thoughts. Through his labors and prayers, while a member of college, many of his fellow students were led to seek an interest in Christ, who are now preaching the gospel to a dying world.

Mr. Mills was a remarkably modest and

humble man, and seldom spoke of the great things that were accomplished through his instrumentality ; but gentlemen who knew his plans and efforts attribute to him a special agency in bringing forward the subject of missions in this country. The first missionaries from America to foreign lands were the bosom friends of Mr. Mills. He seemed born to lay *plans*, and to induce others to execute them. You recollect Obookiah, I presume.

*Children.* O yes, Pa', was this the Mr. Mills who learned him to read at Yale college ?

*Mr. G.* Yes, he graduated at Williams college, and spent a few months as a resident graduate at Yale, during which time Obookiah was introduced to his notice.

At the Theological Seminary at Andover, he found some of those kindred spirits with whom at Williams college he had taken sweet counsel and prayed and planned for the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom in Christian and pagan countries ; and Dr. Griffin said some time since, " I have been in situations to *know* that from the counsels formed in that sacred conclave, or from the mind of Mills himself, arose the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions,

the American Bible Society, the United Foreign Missionary Society, and the African School, under the care of the Synod of New York and New Jersey, besides all the impetus given to domestic missions, to the Colonization Society, and to the general cause of benevolence in both hemispheres. And if I had any instrumentality in originating any of those measures, I here publicly declare that in every instance, I received the first impulse from Samuel John Mills."

Mrs. Granville had listened with fixed attention to the conversation, and when her husband paused at the close of Dr. Griffin's remarks, she exclaimed, "'Behold, what a great matter a little fire kindleth!' shall I ever again dare to despise the day of small things? Who can follow out the results of this humble, unaspiring man's exertions, during his short life, without breaking out in astonishment, 'What hath God wrought?' Do look at Bombay, Ceylon, the Sandwich islands, China, Palestine, Greece, and all the tribes on our western frontier, and compute, if you can, the amount of good accomplished through the agency of the American Board of Missions since the day Mills, Hall, Judson, Newell, and their coadjutors, prayed it into existence."

*Mr. G.* Would to God we could pray as they prayed; then we might expect to see the work of the Lord prospering in our hands as it did in theirs, and our children growing up to become standard bearers in the army of King Immanuel.

*Mrs. G.* Why may we not? with God is the residue of the spirit; he will give us as large measures of grace as we desire and ask for in uprightness.

*Mr. G.* This review of Mills's life has fired my soul anew with burning desires to walk in his steps, to aim at as high achievements, and to expect divine aid in their performance.

I will now resume my narrative. Mr. Mills completed his course at Andover, in the fall of 1812, just eighteen years ago to-morrow, and made preparations for a tour through the western and southern States, under the combined direction and patronage of the missionary societies of Massachusetts and Connecticut. During the years 1812 and 1813 he performed his first tour, and his second in 1814 and 1815. It would take me the whole of this day to enumerate one half of all he said and did while engaged in these missions—the tracts he distributed, and the societies he formed for the diffusion of both tracts and

bibles. Who will doubt that much of the present powerful excitement in favor of the great western valley, originated in the exertions and prayers of Mills, Smith, and Schermerhorn, while engaged in that western mission? They doubtless paved the way for a host of worthies, who have followed them over the lofty Alleghanies and descended into the vale below, and reared churches, colleges, and academies; opened Sabbath schools, those nurseries of the church and fountains of piety that are sending out streams to purify and fertilize the world.

After Mr. Mills's first mission to the south and west, his heart was burdened with the condition of Africa and her degraded descendants, and he unbosomed his full heart to several of his most confidential friends, who felt assured that "he was actuated by a power of feeling, and a confidence of faith, and a disinterestedness of desire, that prepared him to compass sea and land, to perform any labor, to endure any losses, to sustain any sacrifice, in the prosecution of his design, and, if it were necessary, to die in the service of Africa."

For months before he sailed for that continent he visited many sections of country, and took up collections in many cities, and in

every possible way aided the cause of the Colonization Society, which you recollect was organized January 1st, 1817.

*Mrs. G.* Did not Mr. Mills and Mr. Burgess sail for Africa the November following?

*Mr. G.* They did so, and Mr. Burgess returned to the United States in October, 1818, with a vast fund of information, which he had gained from the natives on the coast, the officers, clergymen, and colonists at Sierra Leone, and the friends of Africa in England. The important and interesting facts which he laid before the Society, brought them to a full determination to lay the foundations of their colony as speedily as possible. Exertions were made to remove prejudices, and subdue opposition which had arisen from several quarters. Measures to enlighten the ignorant, to secure the aid of individuals and the general government, were steadily pursued by the friends of the cause through the year 1819.

A considerable number of emigrants stood pledged to go to Africa the first opportunity, but as only a small part of them could be furnished with conveyance, it required great wisdom to make a judicious selection. Several notorious evasions of the laws of the United States, prohibiting the slave trade,

were brought to light about this time, and the President commissioned the sloop of war *Cyane*, of twenty-four guns, to cruise on the African coast, and capture all American vessels found engaged in that abominable commerce, to restore the poor slaves on board to their own country. He also chartered the merchant ship *Elizabeth*, of three hundred tons, to convey those emigrants that had been selected, and he appointed the Rev. Samuel Bacon, and Mr. John P. Bankson, agents for government, with instructions to take the emigrants under their direction, with whose assistance they were expected to clear lands and erect houses, for the accommodation of the recaptured Africans which should be recovered and sent back. It was expected that Mr. Bacon would attend to the wants of such slaves as might be liberated by the *Cyane* and other vessels of war from the slave ships, under the American flag. The Colonization Society appointed Dr. Samuel A. Crozer their agent. About thirty families, including eighty-nine individuals of both sexes and all ages, assembled in New York the last of January, 1820, destined for Africa. Among them was Rev. Daniel Coker from Baltimore, ordained pastor of a large colored congregation in that city, a pious, discreet, and humble

man; Nathaniel Peck, from the same city, was a very promising young mulatto man, by trade a miller, pious, and ardently desirous of doing good.

The Society were obliged to refuse hundreds of free colored persons who were anxious to go in the Elizabeth.

The day appointed for the embarkation of the emigrants arrived, and before the time for their departure came, nearly six thousand anxious spectators had collected and were pressing down to the ship, disappointed at finding the doors of the church shut, where religious services were expected to have been attended. Mr. Bacon saw such crowds collecting, that he foresaw many lives would be sacrificed in the rush to enter the church, and had ordered the doors to be kept closed. He was soon aware that equally disastrous consequences must follow at the banks of the river, if the concourse was not checked in its progress. He therefore ascended a piazza, and addressed the multitude, and commended them to God. He then descended into the street—gave orders for the secret embarkation of the colonists, returned to the populace who seemed fixed to the spot, till word came that all were on board the ship. Mr. Bacon then made the crowd acquainted with the fact, ex

plaining his reasons for checking their farther progress towards the river, and doubtless preserved multitudes from a watery grave. It was with some difficulty the ship got out to sea, owing to the thickness of the ice in the North river. They did not fairly leave the river till February 6, 1820.

The Elizabeth, Captain Sebor, sailed under convoy of the Cyane sloop of war.

The colonists had not been at sea many days, before they had a tremendous gale of wind. Mr. Bacon wrote to a friend, "We shipped nearly a hundred seas, some of which were very heavy. The binacle was washed off, and the compass broken. Sometimes the ship was before the wind; sometimes she was rolling in the trough of the sea; sometimes they lost all command of her. About day-light the wind abated. These last three nights were awful ones indeed; but in the midst of the dangers, when every sea seemed to be about to swallow us up, and every blast of wind stronger than the last,—in the midst of all, I rejoiced in God and in the help of his countenance; I could ask myself, whether there was another place in the universe I would prefer to be in that moment? and I desire to give glory to God, that I could say there was none. Duty had called me here;

God was with me; and I was happy. A covenant God; a triumphant Saviour; a holy Bible; and a peaceful conscience,—all how precious!” Two days after this distressing scene, they fell in with the wreck of a schooner from Boston, without a living soul on board. It is probable that all had perished.

Some of the emigrants became unruly, and occasioned serious difficulty, and had it not been for the timely interference of Mr. Coker, serious consequences must have followed. His piety and good sense prompted him to take such measures as were blessed to the reconciliation of the contending parties. A day of fasting and prayer was observed by all the religious people on board, and before night the chief actor in the disturbance made an apology for his conduct, which was accepted, and perfect harmony was restored. March 9th, the ship arrived at Sierra Leone, and anchored at Freetown. Several American emigrants came on board soon after.

*Janette.* What emigrants, Pa’?

*Mr. G.* Some of those who were carried out by Captain Paul Cuffee, from Boston, several years before. They all made a very respectable appearance, and seemed happy, and in easy circumstances.

A native African, from America, came on

board just at evening, and was so overcome with joy at seeing several persons whom he had known there, that he shouted aloud and praised God. Mr. Coker was remembered by several colored persons in the English colony from Philadelphia, who told him, that they received the sacrament from his hands for the last time in America. The day after their arrival, Mr. Bacon and Mr. Coker took a walk toward evening, and visited the *Kroomen's* village.

*Charles.* Who are the Kroomen, Pa'?

*Mr. G.* Men from *Kroo*, a district of country near Cape Palmas, who are the laborers and watermen of the coast; there is nearly five hundred of them settled at Sierra Leone. They are remarkably tall, and well formed, and have open, intelligent countenances. They are often absent from their country several years; seldom returning till they have acquired considerable property. It is not uncommon for the Kroomen to go up and down the coast hundreds of miles, in their canoes, which are about fifteen feet long, in pursuit of employment. They are far more faithful and capable than any other native laborers. They never sell each other for slaves, neither do any other people ever attempt to enslave them. Masters of vessels treat them with particular kindness, being, in some sense, dependent upon them for pro-

curing wood and water for their ships, and much of their intelligence concerning trade; indeed, without their aid they would often find it impossible to have their merchandize and slaves brought on board their ships, after they were purchased. These people do not wear any other clothing than a piece of cotton cloth around their waists, after the fashion of the Ceylonese.

*Mrs. G.* If they have so much intercourse with Europeans, would it not be natural to expect they would have more light and knowledge on religious subjects than other nations?

*Mr. G.* They are so strongly attached to the customs and superstitions of their own country, that hitherto all attempts to Christianize them have proved abortive.

*Janette.* How did those Kroomen appear, at Freetown, when Mr. Bacon visited them?

*Mr. G.* They had all collected for a play. Some were shooting, others dancing, &c. They expressed much pleasure at seeing the strangers, and many came forward to shake hands, and invited them to drink some rum. Coker replied, "We no drinke rum, God no likey dat," talking in the same broken way that the Kroomen did. Mr. Bacon in a letter speaking of the Kroomen said, "The sickly

and depressed countenance of a Philadelphia colored man, is not to be seen among them. A noble aspect, a dignified mien, a frank and open countenance, the entire demeanor of the wild man ! Sir, it is worth a voyage to Africa to see these Kroomen. I was present at one of their amusements, not much unlike your opera performances ; the speakers and actors were nearly a hundred. I suppose the play I saw, and those performed at Philadelphia, have, the one about as much religion as the other." The agents had not seen the Cyane after the terrible gale, and many fears were entertained for her safety.

Before Mr. Bacon left Sierra Leone he purchased a handsome schooner for the use of the colony. She had been engaged in the slave trade and captured by the English, and by them sold to Mr. Bacon, who sailed for Sherbro, and arrived at Campelar the 17th of March. Mr. Kizzell had not heard from America since the departure of Mr. Mills and Mr. Burgess, but he had erected a few huts, and a place for a store-house. He had almost despaired of ever seeing colonists from America, and when he met the agents he wept like a child, and the same evening took them to his little church for a season of prayer. About twenty natives, nearly naked, joined the wor-

shippers, and were able to join in the tune, and some of the words of praise. Mr. Bacon said, "This was an affecting scene of devotion! it was worth living an age to participate in it, with our feelings."

Almost as soon as the schooner was unloaded, and the settlers fixed in their new habitations, a boat was sent down from Sierra Leone with a request to Mr. Bacon to return with as little delay as possible,—the *Cyane* had arrived, and wished for his advice in relation to her employment on the coast. He left Campelar on the 24th of March. Do you recollect Mr. George Caulker, the proprietor of the Plantain Islands, where Mr. Mills and Mr. Burgess visited him?

*Children.* Yes, Pa', I do; and I; and I too.

*Mr. G.* Mr. Bacon called upon him, and was very much pleased with his appearance. Lieutenant Stringham was with Mr. Bacon; both were received with much courtesy; they said his air and manners were like a Scottish chieftain. He wore a white robe and a figured cambric turban; his house was built in the native style, except one room in the center, which was finished in the European fashion. His establishment exhibited marks of wealth, most of which he acquired by the

barbarous traffic in slaves. After a visit of two days at Sierra Leone, Mr. Bacon returned to Campelar, and hearing that a hundred slaves in irons were near the residence of old king Sherbro, waiting for a hundred more to be brought in, the slave ship lying near the shore, he could hardly refrain himself or restrain his people from going to make an effort to effect their deliverance.

*Charles.* Why did not the Cyane take them?

*Mr. G.* The Cyane was fully employed at another place. Before the tenth of April she had made ten captures! all owned by Americans, but so completely covered with Spanish papers, that they could not be condemned lawfully. However, four American vessels were sent in for trial, all of which were condemned. One of the officers of the Cyane said there were probably as many as three hundred vessels on the coast at that time, engaged in the slave trade, having two or three sets of papers each.

*Janette.* How much misery the slave trade must have produced in Africa. I wish I knew its origin.

*Mr. G.* I cannot stay to tell you; you must ask your mother to inform you.

## CHAPTER V.

Fleecy locks and black complexion  
Cannot forfeit nature's claim ;  
Skins may differ, but affection  
Dwells in black and white the same.

MOTHER, do you know the beginning of slavery in this country ? said Charles, just as his father left the room.

*Mrs. G.* I have been told that the first slaves ever introduced into the United States were brought in a Dutch man-of-war, and landed at Jamestown in Virginia, in August, 1620, and *there* offered for sale.

*Janette.* And has it continued from that time, a period of two hundred and eleven years ? Do tell me if England ever had any hand in it ?

*Mrs. G.* Yes, ever since the reign of queen Elizabeth, in 1562.

*Janette.* How could she be a Christian, and encourage such a wicked trade ?

*Mrs. G.* She did not encourage taking Africans by force and selling them for slaves, for when captain Hawkins returned from Af-

rica with the first cargo of slaves, she sent for him, and charged him not to bring one person without their free consent, adding, "it would be detestable, and call down the vengeance of Heaven upon the undertakers." When he went to Africa the second time, he promised to follow her directions, but no sooner had he reached that injured land than he seized many of the inhabitants, cruelly dragged them to his ship, and carried them where he could sell them for slaves. From that time I never heard anything more about the queen's scruples, and England has continued to plunge as deeply in that revolting and impious trade as any other nation in the world.

*Charles.* How were they disposed of?

*Mrs. G.* Hawkins carried his first cargo to the island of Hayti. Multitudes were carried to all the West India islands, and sold to the planters.

*Clara.* Was that wicked captain the first who ever traded in slaves?

*Mrs. G.* No, I do not suppose he was, for we read of the existence of slavery in very remote ages; but in more modern times, I do not recollect ever reading of buying and selling people earlier than 1503. That year some of the Portuguese settlers in Africa sent a few slaves to the Spanish colonies in Amer-

ica. Eight years afterwards Ferdinand the fifth, king of Spain, permitted large numbers to be carried thither.

*Janette.* In what part of Africa did they procure slaves?

*Mrs. G.* The slave trade commenced at the river Senegal, and continued to wind around the coast a distance of more than three thousand miles, penetrating the interior so far, that some of the poor slaves said they had to travel *many moons*, before they reached the coast. Slaves were first regularly imported into Genoa in 1517, by permission of Charles of Austria. He allowed armed vessels to make a descent upon the coast of Africa, and by force of arms carry off the natives, who were so terribly alarmed, that they fled into the thick forests of the interior, where they were followed by the criminal traders, who by fraud and flattery, induced them to sell their convicts and prisoners of war. These were paid for in toys, and such finery as had the most power to please. The subtle traders soon found, that the natives were not insensible to the workings of avarice, and when this hateful passion was powerfully excited, wars were multiplied among themselves under the most trifling prettexts. Multitudes of prisoners were taken of every rank,

and sold indiscriminately to those who would pay the most for them. Kidnapping took the place of bloody wars, and such scenes of treachery and cruelty followed, as would make your hearts bleed to hear described. Nobody was safe, for the natives had acquired such a passion for rum, tobacco, beads, and other articles introduced by the slave traders, that they stole people while fishing in the rivers, or working in their rice and cassada fields, to pay for them. Little children were picked up whenever found, and sold for trifling sums, and notwithstanding their bitter cries, were carried on board the slave ship, never more to behold the face of kindred or friend.

Thus, in a few years, avarice and self-interest prompted merchants, planters, manufacturers, and even politicians and legislators, to connive at this monstrous and degrading traffic, until it was carried on with the most astonishing activity, and immense fortunes were acquired in a short time.

At length these cruel monsters grew so bold, they did not fear molestation, for almost every nation in the civilized world were engaged in it; and slave factories were established, in various places, the whole length of the coast.

*Janette.* Mother, what are factories?

*Mrs. G.* Trading houses where merchandize in large quantities is kept for sale. The poor slaves were received by the factors, at the establishments where they were bought, and kept in good condition till slavers came to purchase cargoes. If the poor creatures were wounded in being taken, or worn down with fatigue and cruel treatment, at these factories they would be fed, bathed and anointed with a peculiar preparation of oil, which so improved their appearance, that they sold for much larger sums than they would have done when first brought in from the interior.

*Janette.* O mother, I did not know till now one half of the horrors of slavery.

*Mrs. G.* My child, you know comparatively little, if anything of it now.

*Janette.* How many of those unhappy beings are torn from their country in a year?

*Mrs. G.* I do not know exactly; but from 1786 to 1822, a period of thirty-six years, I have been informed that more than a million and a half had been drawn from western Africa. And how many hopes have been buried, and hearts broken by their removal, is known only to Him whose eye beholds at a glance all that is done in every land.

*Clara.* Mother, I wish you would tell us what became of Mr. Bacon, and the people he took out to Sherbro.

*Mrs. G.* The ship which carried them to Africa, returned before Mr. Bacon had purchased land for a colony. By her, many of the colonists wrote to their friends the most cheering accounts. In one of Mr. Coker's letters, he said, "We find the land good, and the natives kind, only those, who, from intercourse with the slave-traders, become otherwise. Here are thousands and thousands of souls to be converted from paganism and Mohammedanism to the religion of Jesus. Oh! brethren, who will come over to the help of the Lord? I have just returned from visiting one of the kings, with the agent. Oh! my brother, and sister, I have seen and passed through strange things since I last saw you; what darkness has covered the minds of this people. None but those who come and see, can judge. You would be astonished to see me travelling in the wilderness, guided by a little foot path, until, coming suddenly upon a little town of huts in the thickets; and there to behold hundreds of men, women and children, naked, sitting on the ground or on mats, living on the natural productions of the earth, all as ignorant of God as the brutes that per-

ish. You would see them coming round to shake hands with me, (but very different from our way of shaking hands,) and gazing on me, and spreading a mat, and offering me such food as they live upon. Such is their conduct, that any one who loves souls would weep over them, and be willing to suffer and die with them. If you ask my opinion as to coming out; I say, let all that can, sell out and come; come, and bring ventures to trade with, and you may do much better than you can possibly do in America, and not work half so hard. Peck is well and sends his love. I am in great haste. The Lord bless you and your dear family. Farewell.

D. COKER."

*Janette.* I suppose it was the same Peck that Pa' told us was a miller; did not he write to his friends?

*Mrs. G.* Yes, he wrote to his mother: "I am now treading the soil of my mother country—thanks be to God! and find that it is good; every thing that heart can wish. The climate is very mild and good. The Lord is with us; and has done great things for us. Mr. Kizzell had twelve houses built for us before we arrived. I have had the pleasure of seeing the king of Sherbro; he and his peo-

ple received us with much joy. We gave him a salute with the cannon, as is the custom here. We also saw a vessel, with one hundred slaves. We expect to take them when our schooner is done unloading the ship. Land, the kings say, we must and shall have; everything is encouraging—we have nothing to fear, for Africa is our home. I am now President of a Sunday school society. The native children receive instruction very easy. I am also a contractor for the colony—and brother Coker a Justice of the Peace. So you see we are to govern ourselves as well as we are able. Wonderful scenes I have seen since I left home, but time will not admit of my writing more. Give my love to my dear sisters, the children, and all my dear friends. Ask them to pray for us—for ‘the harvest is plenteous, and the laborers few.’

NATHANIEL PECK.”

Mr. Kizzell wrote a long letter to a colored man of wealth and influence. I will give you an extract, which I copied on the same sheet with Coker’s and Peck’s letter.

*Charles.* Mother, do read it.

*Mrs. G. (Reads.)* “I have received the brethren of the mission. I am glad to see them, and will do all I can for them. I thank

God that they have come. The Rev. D. Coker is a fine man; and Mr. Peck also. I pray God to make them useful. Were not your fathers carried slaves from this country to America? When that country was discovered was there a black family there? God has blessed you to make a man of you. I would ask you, when Jacob went into Egypt, were not their number seventy-five? How many came out of Egypt? Were there not six hundred thousand men, besides women and children? The Israelites were three hundred and forty years from Canaan to their return: are we not the same? I never heard that the Lord said, blessed is he that preaches; but the blessing is on the man that doth his will."

*Charles.* Why, mother, is it not very strange that the free people of color do not all remove to Africa?

*Mrs. G.* Large numbers would be glad to go, my son, if they had an opportunity and the means of defraying the expense.

*Janette.* How much would a passage cost?

*Mrs. G.* Somewhere between twenty and thirty dollars. This small sum might soon be earned by a great many of the sober and industrious, and no other colonists are wanted; but in the first years of the society's existence,

evil disposed or ignorant people misrepresented the design of it, and discouraged the colored men from making applications for a passage, when a vessel was fitting out.

*Clara.* Was any one compelled to go, mother?

*Mrs. G.* No, the object of the society was to provide a good situation on the coast of Africa, for such free colored persons as might choose to go and settle there; and for such slaves as their owners were pleased to emancipate, (make free); and the funds they procure are appropriated to defray the expenses of those who wish to go, but cannot raise the sum necessary. I do not see what inducement they can have to remain in this country, for they can never rise here to the level of white men. Whereas, if they would go to the land of their fathers, they would soon be elevated to posts of honor and trust, if they were moral and educated, perhaps as suddenly as Mr. Coker and Mr. Peck. The numbers are daily increasing of such as wish to go, with a view to benefit the native inhabitants, by instructing them in morals and religion, and all the arts of civilized life.

Some of the most intelligent and enterprising of this class were very anxious to find some spot on the globe where their complex-

ion would be no obstacle in their pursuit of happiness and a state of political independence, years before the formation of the Colonization Society. In the town of Newport, in Rhode Island, several colored men of property subscribed a considerable sum, and deputed three of their number to go to Africa, and see if a good place might not be purchased; and there is no doubt they would have formed a settlement, had not the dishonesty of their agents defeated the object.

We have made a long digression, and will return to the agents and colonists, whom we left at Campelar. It was the design of the society, if it were found practicable, to purchase the territory described by Mr. Mills and Mr. Burgess, on the Bagroo river; and immediately after the Elizabeth sailed, Mr. Bacon, with Mr. Kizzell, visited king Farro, and took measures to hold a palaver at an early day. Their guide pointed out to them the *greegrees*, cautioning them to beware of going near them, unless they were willing to catch various distempers.

*Clara.* Mother, what were they?

*Mrs. G.* The word *greegrees* seems to have several significations, such as *evil spirits*, an amulet or charm,—the *greegree men* were a kind of prophets or conjurers. Mr. Bacon

was delighted with the fertility of the soil and the rich fruits which every where grew in great profusion. In this tour he gathered an orange which measured fifteen inches in circumference. Soon after his return, the fever of the country attacked one after another until the seventh of April, at which time no less than twenty-five were sick, and Dr. Crozer absent. The next day the doctor and Mr. Bankson returned to Campelar, both very ill. Mr. Bacon wrote in his journal of the eighth, "Wherever I move, I meet with little besides groans and tears. The fever is bilious, attended with delirium. Many of the sick obstinately refuse to take medicines: some declaring they will sooner die than submit to do it." Again he wrote, "There are eight entire families sick; amongst whom there is not one able to dress his own food, or wait upon a child. Oh God, who *can* help but thou! I counted the cost of engaging in this service before I left America. I came to these shores to *die*: and any thing better than death is better than I expect." He labored incessantly in the sun and damp, whenever not occupied in administering to the temporal and spiritual wants of the people under his charge. He said, "I go without stockings, often without shoes, scarcely wear a hat, and am generally

without a coat; I am up early, and not in bed until ten or eleven o'clock. I eat little, and seldom use any other refreshments except hard ship-bread, salt meat and water. I labor more, am more exposed to heat, and wet, and damp, and hunger, and thirst, than any one; and yet, blessed be God, I continue in health, and have peace within." When two had died, and several new cases had occurred the same day, he wrote, "There are only six or eight of the people in health—and the sick cannot be properly taken care of. I am still well and enjoy the supreme protection and favor of God." Another person died on the fourteenth, and Dr. Crozer was so ill that his death seemed very near. Mr. Townsend, a young midshipman, died on that night, and Dr. Crozer about one o'clock on the sixteenth. Mr. Bacon was engaged in prayer by his side when he breathed his last. The evening after his interment, Mr. Bacon felt somewhat indisposed, went into a warm bath, took such medicines as he thought his case required, and carefully abstained from swallowing much water. It was supposed that too copious draughts injured, if it did not carry off Mr. Townsend, Dr. Crozer, and others. But his days were fast drawing to a close. In the contemplation of his own death heaven with

all its glories was in joyful prospect for the portion of his own soul, yet his heart was in anguish for the poor sufferers around him, and for the final success of the mission. The day preceding his death he sat up and conversed a little. The cause of Africa was dear to his heart, and he expressed a strong interest for her welfare to the last. "The last effort of reason and speech, took place about eleven o'clock on the evening of the first of May. The languid current of life ebbed gradually away, until half past four, on the following morning, when he expired." Mr. Bankson had been very sick, but appeared to be rapidly recovering for several days, when he suddenly relapsed and died, without one earthly friend to smooth the pillow of death, or wipe the cold dews from his brow.

Mr. Bankson was one of the most devoted Sunday school teachers in this country, and was actively engaged in the formation of the first in the city of Philadelphia. On his passage to Africa he had one set up on board the ship, which was well attended; and the first Sabbath he spent in Africa he was surrounded by a large class of those he brought with him, - and nearly twenty of the native children, whom he had collected. He was a most amiable man, and a devoted Christian.

*Charles.* The African colony had a very melancholy beginning, mother.

*Mrs. G.* True, my son, but not so much so as the Plymouth colony, in New England.

*Janette.* Mother, do you know what Mr. Bacon was before he was an agent?

*Mrs. G.* He was an Episcopalian minister a short time before he left this country, but for many years previous he had been a lawyer.

*Clara.* Pa' told us about Mr. Mills's life, mother, and will you not tell us as much about Mr. Bacon's?

*Mrs. G.* Mr. Bacon was born at Sturbridge, in Massachusetts, on the 22d of July, 1781. His mother was a Christian of no ordinary attainments, though humble and retiring; she strove to impress the mind of her son with the solemn realities of religion, and often told him she wished him to be like Samuel of old. She lingered several years in a consumption, and died when Samuel was ten years old; after this bereavement he had some serious impressions, which were soon effaced. These were repeated from time to time, and as often vanished like the morning cloud. He lived and toiled upon his father's farm until more than twenty years of age; he then prepared for college at Leicester academy, entered the university at Cambridge, and pur-

sued his studies with so much eagerness, and made such exertions during the vacations to procure money to defray his expenses, that at the close of his college course his health was in a very critical state. He however commenced the study of law at Worcester, and for a short season conducted a weekly newspaper; but in consequence of his feeble health, he was advised to seek a milder climate, and he spent some time in Philadelphia, Lancaster, and Carlisle. He was induced to open a school at Lancaster, with five pupils, which at the end of about two years numbered one hundred and fifty. Although infidel in his own sentiments, yet from a conviction of their utility, he enforced the precepts of Christianity upon the minds of his scholars. In 1812, Mr. Bacon was invited to take charge of a literary institution in York, which he had about concluded to accept, when he was surprised by the arrival of a commission from the navy department at Washington. His enthusiastic turn of mind was well suited to a military life. But he had not been in his new situation long before some little difficulty between himself and another officer terminated in a duel, thus proving to the world that neither of them were religious, brave, or honorable. Mr. Bacon received a severe wound in

the thigh, which disabled him some time from active duties. This duel was a subject of deep abhorrence and repentance to his dying day, for though he did not murder his antagonist, yet he felt, and acknowledged, that duelling is murder, whether attended by fatal consequences, or not. Two years after receiving his commission, he married Miss Anna Mary Barnitz of York, Pennsylvania. He became deeply interested in the happiness of his amiable and interesting companion, and said, he was almost *compelled to pray*, which practice he was ever after seldom known to omit. With her he read the Holy Scriptures, and his views gradually changed, though he remained still far from God. On the birth of his son in March, 1815, he was almost overwhelmed with a sense of the unmerited goodness of God, and under the weight of obligation laid upon him by this gift, he resolved upon leading a more strictly religious life. During his military career he had found time to resume the study of law, and was admitted to the bar before the birth of his little boy; and soon after that event he removed to York and opened an office, and became more anxious for wealth and fame than to please God. His religious resolutions were soon broken, and in the midst of his worldly plans his be-

loved wife, who was truly pious, was attacked with nervous fever, and her almost distracted husband was called to witness her dying struggles and bid her a last farewell.

He resigned his commission, and devoted himself to the practice of law, but the world had lost its power to charm, though he still sought and obtained many marks of public regard. Nothing, however, could give him that peace of mind for which his heart panted. In 1816 he visited the place of his nativity, and witnessed such changes produced by the power of divine grace, especially in his aged father, that he could not remain insensible. He returned home, passed through a long and distressing season of conviction, and at last was enabled to cast himself upon Christ as a willing and almighty Saviour. He united with the church in May, 1817. From that time he was always ready for every good word and work. His natural fondness for children led him to make unwearied efforts to gather them in Sabbath and other schools. A Sabbath school society was formed by his exertions, and the whole county enlisted in the good cause. In a little more than a year after he united with the church, he had thirty-six schools, containing twelve hundred scholars and more than two hundred teachers.

Some of these schools were twenty-five miles from his house, yet he visited them constantly, and by his advice and exhortations encouraged all to persevere. He was diligent in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. He used to set out on Saturday, and return on Monday. O if all the lawyers in this country should take such a decided stand for God and religion as Mr. Bacon did after his conversion, the state of society would be vastly improved; and if the pious emigrants to the west should walk in his steps, how many sinners, recovered to God through the instrumentality of their labors in Sabbath schools, would rise up and call them blessed.

*Janette.* How many of the colonists who went out with him died?

*Mr. G.* Nineteen or twenty. The negotiation that was pending when the agents were taken sick, entirely failed in consequence of the treachery and duplicity of the Sherbro chiefs.

*Charles.* Was that the end of the colony?

*Mrs. G.* No, my son. The friends of the society were so highly animated by the letters and accounts brought them by the Elizabeth, that they engaged in preparing another company with the greatest zeal imaginable; money, books, furniture, tools and clothing

were contributed with great liberality; the brig *Nautilus* was chartered, and nearly thirty effective laborers were among the emigrants who were accepted. Just before the brig was ready to sail, the melancholy tidings of the calamity which had befallen the first company reached our shores, and the government immediately appointed J. B. Winn, Esquire, agent, to reside on the coast of Africa, and an assistant agent. The society elected the Rev. Mr. Andrus and Mr. C. Wiltberger to accompany the emigrants. They were instructed to land them at Sierra Leone, where they were to remain until a tract of land was purchased, and some preparations made for the reception of the women and children. The *Nautilus* arrived at Sierra Leone on the 9th of March, 1821, and the settlers were immediately placed under the protection of the colonial government. The agents took a lease of a fine plantation at Foura Bay, in the vicinity of Freetown, where the emigrants found comfortable accommodations and constant employment. By this arrangement the agents were relieved from a great burden of care, and left at liberty to explore the coast, and purchase a territory at their leisure. They were extremely cautious, and were soon satisfied that no dependance could be put upon

the veracity or integrity of the petty kings. After gaining correct information concerning the Bagroo country and visiting the coast farther south, they were convinced that other situations presented greater advantages, even had there been no difficulties in the way of procuring the Bagroo country.

The chiefs of the Grand Bassa nation were willing to sell land, but would not consent to renounce the traffic in slaves, which prevented the ratification of the contract for a settlement in their country. This nation is nearly three hundred miles south of Sierra Leone. Disappointed in their expectations of obtaining a settlement, the agents concluded to wait at the English colony for further instructions from the Board of Managers. One of the agents with his wife were attacked with the coast fever, and were so much reduced that it was thought best they should return to the United States, where they arrived safely in August.

The Board lost no time in appointing an agent, after they heard of the embarrassed situation of those already in Africa. Dr. Eli Ayres sailed in July, 1821, in the schooner *Shark*, under the command of Lieutenant Perry. Soon after the agents arrived at Sierra Leone from their visit to the Bassa country, the Rev. Mr. Andrus was taken sick of

fever, and after a short illness died on the twenty-seventh of July. Mr. Winn sunk under the same disease, and died on the twenty-fifth of August, and Mrs. Winn followed him down to the grave on the thirty-first of the same month.

*Janette.* Was not the society discouraged when they heard of these fresh calamities?

*Mrs. G.* The Managers felt grieved, and all the friends of the cause mourned the loss of persons so devoted and disinterested, but they were not so much disheartened as to relax these efforts to accomplish the object for which the society was formed. They were constrained to bless the Lord for his special goodness in turning the heart of Dr. Ayres to this service just at the time a man of medical skill was so much needed. He possessed other qualifications which eminently fitted him for the station.

Here the little party were interrupted by the arrival of the stage coach, and the next moment Mrs. Granville received into her arms her beloved sister Caroline.

## CHAPTER VI.

Oh Afric! what has been thy crime  
That thus like Eden's fratricide,  
A mark is set upon thy clime,  
And every brother shuns thy side.

THE next day Mr. Granville received another visit from his children at the office, who told him their mother had carried forward the history of the society to the time of Dr. Ayres's departure for Africa—that she and their aunt Caroline had gone to ride, and had given them leave to spend an hour with their father, if their company would be agreeable to him. Clara added, “Mother has promised to relate more when she returns, and aunt Caroline says she will tell us about Sierra Leone this evening.”

*Mr. G.* The arrival of Dr. Ayres in Africa was hailed with joy by the settlers, who had never had the regular attendance of a physician in all their sickness. After a short stay at Foura Bay, (Sierra Leone,) he put all the colonists and their affairs under the care of Mr. Wiltberger, and accompanied by Lieu-

tenant Stockton, of the United States schooner Alligator, sailed down the coast on the 6th of December, 1821, in the schooner Augusta. They anchored in Messurado Bay on the eleventh, and finding the appearance of the country answer the description which had been given of it, they determined to land and attempt a negotiation.

After many difficulties they succeeded in obtaining an interview with king Peter. They were obliged to wait for an introduction some time, in the shed of a Krooman, surrounded by a throng of natives, the most of whom had knives hanging from their girdles, and about half a dozen were armed with muskets. Dr. Ayres felt rather unpleasantly, and watched the countenance of Lieutenant Stockton pretty narrowly. He was soon convinced that the Lieutenant was a stranger to fear, and not long afterwards he felt assured that the natives had no hostile intentions. His majesty approached, attended by a servant, who held an umbrella over him ; he was soon seated, and the agent stated his object in coming, but the palaver broke up without making any contract. Two days afterwards they went again to meet the king, according to appointment, but he was not to be seen. Cape Messurado was the

spot they had selected, and they were resolved to persevere till it was obtained. This beautiful spot had been an object of desire to the French and English for more than a hundred years, but all their efforts to get possession of it had proved abortive. At last the parties met, and the *palaver* lasted three hours, without coming to a decision. On the fourteenth they went on shore, and with considerable authority sent for the king, who sent back word that he would neither come nor sell them any land. One of two things must be done immediately, either to take their lives in their hands, and go to king Peter's town, or give up the purchase, as had been the case with all who had gone before them. They resolved upon the former, and with a Krooman for their guide they set out, and followed him through dismal swamps, wading through water or wallowing in mud, six or seven miles into the interior.

At length they reached the town where the king resided, and were shown into the *palaver hall*, where they waited a full hour for his majesty to dress; the prime minister shook hands with them, but looked very grave, and none of the attendants appeared pleased. For a considerable time after the king en-

gaged in conversation, there seemed no prospect of bringing the business to a close. However, at the end of two days' negotiation, a contract for Cape Messurado, and the island at the mouth of the Messurado river, was signed, sealed, and delivered. The deeds were signed by the kings Peter, George, Zoda, Long Peter, and their princes and headmen, all of whom were joint owners. Dr. Ayres and Lieutenant Stockton signed the paper in behalf of their employers, and agreed to pay the quantity of goods which had been specified by the kings. Both parties pledged themselves to live in peace and friendship forever. When the whole business was completed, Dr. Ayres wrote to the Board of Managers,—“I consider the contract not only as a triumph over savage prejudice, but over European negotiation. For this you are entirely indebted to the energy, sagacity, and perseverance of Lieutenant Stockton.” In describing Cape Messurado he observed, “It has the best harbor between Gibraltar and the Cape of Good Hope.” To keep in remembrance the long continued and perplexing palavers before they obtained possession of the Cape, they named the island at the mouth of the Messurado river, *Perseverance*.

*Charles.* Pa', is Cape Messurado like Cape Cod, and Cape Ann?

*Mr. G.* No, my son, it is a promontory which extends about three miles into the sea, forming a fine bay on the north side, where vessels may lie near the shore in water sixty feet deep. At the time it was purchased it was covered with a heavy growth of forest trees, standing close together, and perfectly covered with wild vines, the stalks as large as cables, which made it almost or quite impenetrable.

*Charles.* How could such land ever be cleared, Pa'?

*Mr. G.* It cost much labor, but it was done more expeditiously than you would suppose; they had to cut the trunks of nearly a dozen trees almost off before they could fell one; but when they began to go, they made crashing work. It did not cost more than five or six dollars to clear an acre.

*Janette.* How long is the Messurado river?

*Mr. G.* About three hundred miles in length. It rises near the head waters of the Gambia, and Niger.

*Charles.* Did the emigrants take possession of the Cape immediately after the purchase?

*Mr. G.* The first day of January, 1822, was appointed for the colonists to remove from Foura Bay to Cape Messurado, and orders were issued for all to be in readiness. The news of a speedy departure to their future home was received with joy by most ; a few, however, had formed such strong attachments at their temporary residence, that they felt unwilling to leave, and four persons were allowed to remain.

When the kings actually saw the colonists taking possession of the Cape, they loaded king Peter with reproaches, and threatened his life, for taking the lead in selling the territory for a colony. They even went so far as to pass a decree that the colonists should be driven away from the coast.

*Janette.* What, after their solemn promise never to molest or disturb them ?

*Mr. G.* Yes, you cannot conceive the duplicity and treachery of the natives, at the time the colony was first established.

*Clara.* How could Dr. Ayres get along with them ?

*Mr. G.* He paid very little attention to the contradictory rumors that were floating about, and ordered the vessel to be unloaded, and measures taken to erect houses ; but he soon found another interview with the kings

indispensable. During the palaver, his firmness, energy and decision checked the opposition, and to all human appearance peace was restored. But in a few weeks a spirit of hostility had become as apparent as ever. A British prize slave ship had called at the Cape to take in water; the captain and one of the kings quarrelled. The captain's ship parted her cable and was thrown on shore. At the same time a French slaver was waiting for the remainder of her cargo of slaves, which encouraged the natives to attack the English prize for the sake of plunder. The colonists volunteered in the defence of the prize, and in the contest two natives were killed, and the next day a British sailor, and one of the colonists. To increase the calamity, an English sailor carelessly discharged a cannon so near the store-house of the colony that it took fire, and the provision, clothing, and most of the utensils for farming and cooking were destroyed.

The natives were by this time fully aware of the influence which the colony would exert upon the *slave-trade*, if they were allowed to remain, and they meditated their speedy destruction.

King George's warriors did not exceed twenty, but the death of two of their number

exasperated the remainder, and they sought every opportunity to make a quarrel by offering insults. In the midst of all this confusion a *grand palaver* was assembled. There were seventeen kings and thirty-two *half kings* present on this memorable occasion. Dr. Ayres presented himself before them in an independent manner, told them he had purchased and paid for the land, and that he should retain it: if they attempted to expel him or his people he would soon show them "what fighting was:—he would bring ships, and batter down every town that opposed him, from Cape Mount to the Line." Two of the kings were decided friends of the colony. Boatswain was the most powerful, and he shook his sides with laughter at the threats of Dr. Ayres. The kings showed great uneasiness, and it was increased by Boatswain, who sent out one of his men to circulate that four large ships were then coming into the harbor. This filled the hearts of the great men with such fear and consternation, that it was difficult to keep them together long enough to finish the business.

*Charles.* Pa', who was Boatswain?

*Mr. G.* He was a native of Sherbro, and king of the *Condo* tribe; having served on board an English ship a short time, he had

acquired a little knowledge of the English language, and received his name. He was nearly seven feet high, and finely proportioned; the expression of his countenance was noble and prepossessing, and his mind corresponded with the loftiness of his figure. His generosity was unbounded, and his power was felt by all the neighboring tribes. After the difficulties were once more adjusted, the chiefs still threw out that poor old king Peter was a traitor, and he felt that his life was in jeopardy. In this critical juncture he appealed to Boatswain, who soon made his appearance at the Cape, "not to pronounce sentence," he said, "between the coast people and the strangers, but to *do justice*." He brought a sufficient force with him to convince all parties that whatever he planned, he had power to execute. He said to the agents, "I promise you my protection. If these people give you any further trouble, send for me. And I promise, if they oblige me to come again to quiet them, I will do it to purpose by taking their heads from their shoulders." He promised protection to king Peter.

*Charles.* I do not wonder such a man was feared, Pa'; I should think the emigrants would have been afraid of him too.

*Mr. G.* No, they were not at all afraid;

he understood his own interest too well to make the English or Americans his enemies.

After this last settlement with the natives, the American flag was hoisted on the Cape, and formal possession taken on the twenty-fifth of April, 1821.

*Janette.* Pa', how did the people get along after their store-house and so much of its contents were consumed?

*Mr. G.* They were in such distressing circumstances that Dr. Ayres thought it best for them to go back again to Sierra Leone, while he should return to the United States and procure a fresh supply.

*Charles.* Did they go, Pa'?

*Mr. G.* I will tell you what the circumstances of the colony were at the time, that you may admire the goodness of God, and the heroic fortitude of the little band that concluded to remain, after the agents' proposal to leave the Cape. The rains were setting in—tornadoes were frequent—every house was nearly roofless—sickness was increasing—both Dr. Ayres and Mr. Wiltberger were among the invalids; yet in view of all these disheartening prospects twenty-one of these brave men remained, after both agents and some of the colonists had left them.

*Charles.* Who was at the head of affairs in the absence of the agents?

*Mr. G.* Mr. Elijah Johnston, who went from the city of New York in 1820. He was a most valuable man, and highly respected by all the colonists and agents.

*Janette.* How much money was the property worth that was burnt?

*Mr. G.* It was estimated at three thousand dollars. Had it not been for *Ba Caia*, the chieftain of Perseverance island, who supplied the colonists with provisions, I know not but they must have nearly perished; for no sooner had the agents sailed for the United States, and Boatswain departed into the interior, than the treacherous natives forbade their furnishing the colonists with supplies, and immediately began to resume the attitude of hostility.

*Janette.* How very dark and gloomy their prospects must have been: I do not see where they could look for help.

*Mr. G.* They looked to Him who alone can save to the uttermost, and he honored their faith in his promises. But the trials endured by these houseless sufferers will never be known by any who did not participate in them.

*Clara.* What tribes lived in the neighborhood of the Cape?

*Mr. G.* The Deys lived about thirty miles north of them; the Queahs, a quiet people, on the east; the Gurrahs lived on the river St. Paul's, and beyond them the Condoes, or Boatswain's people. The whole country was broken up into small, independent, elective governments, each jealous of his neighbor, and all afraid of the Condoe tribe.

*Charles.* Did not the society send them assistance?

*Mr. G.* I will tell you. A vessel was chartered by government to convey a number of liberated slaves to the land of their birth, under the direction of J. Ashmun, Esquire; and the Colonization Society sent out under his care thirty-seven emigrants, and stores for the colony. Mr. Ashmun expected to return with the ship, and Mrs. Ashmun, anxious to accompany her husband, easily obtained his consent. They sailed from Baltimore in June, 1822, and reached the Cape the eighth of August. Finding both agents had left the country, he assumed the office of principal agent, agreeable to the instructions he had received. He found a town laid out, and twenty or thirty houses erected in the native style, but not one unoccupied that could shelter from the rains. Mats were purchased to finish flooring and ceiling some of the dwell-

ings that were in the greatest forwardness, and at the end of a month the reinforcement were all landed and accommodated with houses, or rather huts, and the stores disposed of safely.

*Charles.* What did Mr. Ashmun do with the slaves who had been liberated and sent to their own country by the United States' government?

*Mr. G.* They were put under the care of a colored man of respectability and intelligence, who occupied apartments connected with them. It was intended to have them formed into a separate community from the other settlers in every respect excepting public worship on the Sabbath, and other occasions. There were only fifteen of them, and their superintendent instructed them daily three or four hours in reading, writing, and figures, and the principles of Christianity; another man took the lead in their out-door work. King George lived almost within gunshot of the settlement, and conscious of the wicked part he had taken in the affray with the colonists, and jealous of the agent, fearing that he would take vengeance on him for his perfidy, left his town within three days after Mr. Ashmun's arrival. Almost immediately the colony was disturbed by reports of the hostile designs of the neighboring tribes. Mr.

Ashmun took an early opportunity to ascertain how much credit was due to these rumors, and visited several of the chiefs and head-men; many of them expressed the most amicable feelings, but still it was evident to his discriminating mind that much malignity was partially disguised under expressions of friendship. He returned fully convinced that power alone was wanting to ruin the settlement utterly. Preparations for defence were made with as much dispatch as their circumstances would allow.

*Charles.* Pa', what means of defence had they?

*Mr. G.* They had thirty men able to bear arms; forty muskets, all out of order; one brass and three iron guns, one only fit for use; most of the others were on the opposite side of the river, half buried in mud. But one gun had any kind of a carriage; however, they were all collected, and put in the best condition possible in their situation. The rains fell in torrents, and considerably retarded the progress of the works. The little town was hemmed in by a thick forest, except on the river side, nearly to the dwelling houses. Mr. Ashmun felt it to be important to have the trees cut down to form a defence in case the enemy should effect a landing; his men

so cheerfully and vigorously engaged in this labor that it was soon accomplished, and the boughs and wild vines made this wall almost impenetrable to anything larger than musket balls. The men generally were zealous and faithful, and like Nehemiah and his companions, held a weapon in one hand while they wrought with the other. Their fatigue and exhaustion were greatly increased by a nightly watch, which occupied five stations and required twenty men, so that when they slept it was on their arms. The agent's constitution was hardly equal to the burden he was compelled to bear, and he was attacked with chills, the sure prelude to the African fever. Mrs. Ashmun was ever ready to lend a helping hand to every one in trouble, and after the fever broke out among the reinforcement she was seen ministering to the wants, and soothing the minds of the poor sufferers, till the same disease prostrated all her powers of body and mind. In her case all remedies proved unavailing. Before her reason forsook her she told her husband that she was happy in God, and felt her own will wholly absorbed in his. She fell asleep in Jesus on the fifteenth of September, 1822. At the time of her death there was but one individual who came out with her that was not on the sick list.

*Janette.* Was Mr. Ashmun very sick, Pa'?

*Mr. G.* Yes, but his resolution seemed unconquerable; for after a night of burning fever and delirium he would arise and give directions about the fort, and the other works, visit the sick and encourage and comfort those in health. On the first of October he saw the brig Strong, which brought him to Africa, depart for the United States, leaving the whole coast in an unprotected state.

Mr. Ashmun was gradually recovering, and had succeeded in getting the fort in readiness, the guns mounted, and the men pretty well trained before the tenth of November, when the settlement was attacked by eight hundred infuriated natives. They came by surprise, having ascended the bank about daylight and marched shoulder to shoulder within fifty yards of the most powerful gun, which was elevated upon a platform of suitable height, and when it poured down upon them, every discharge "spent its force in a solid mass of living flesh;" a savage yell was the signal for a retreat, and all the living soon disappeared.

*Janette.* Were there not a great many killed, Pa'?

*Mr. G.* Yes, but the exact number could not be ascertained.

*Janette.* How many of the colonists perished ?

*Mr. G.* Joseph Benson was shot dead, and his five children taken captives. Mary Tines, a young married woman, was stabbed to death in her own house ; a woman in the same house with her jumped through a small window and escaped with her life, but left her infant a captive in the hands of the barbarians. Mrs. Minty Draper was robbed of both her little ones, but escaped with a severe wound in her head. Mrs. Ann Hawkins received thirteen wounds, and was thrown aside for dead, but after months of suffering recovered, and is still living. Thomas Spinn was mortally wounded ; making the number of killed four, if we include one native African, who was with the colonists ; his wounds occasioned his death. Eleven persons were severely wounded, and seven children carried into captivity.

*Clara.* Were these little captives never recovered, Pa' ?

*Mr. G.* Yes, my child, but not without much trouble, and some expense.

*Janette.* How were they treated ?

*Mr. G.* Very kindly. It was matter of devout thankfulness that Mr. Ashmun's life was spared, for it was in the most imminent

danger, having had no less than three balls fired through his clothes. After the foe had retreated, the settlers discovered that they had not more than three rounds of shot left on hand, and whether the enemy would rally and return was a matter of the greatest uncertainty.

*Janette.* Pa', who was their surgeon?

*Mr. G.* I am almost ashamed to tell you that they were destitute of a physician, surgeon, or instruments; not a single probe or lancet was to be found in the colony.

*Charles.* What did they do with the wounded?

*Mr. G.* A pen-knife, razor and priming-wire were all the instruments that Mr. Ashmun and Mr. Lott Cary had to dress the wounds, and extract the fragments of copper and slugs with which the natives load their muskets. The sufferings of the poor settlers were unutterable for months, in consequence of their want of surgical aid. The night after the action an uncommon movement was heard, and a few guns were discharged and one of the cannon. At that moment an English schooner, laden with military stores, only a few days from Sierra Leone, on hearing the firing, lay by till morning. When hearing of the situation of the colony, the officers came on shore, and generously offered their services to

the agent. Sustaining a neutral character, they could with propriety ascertain the disposition and views of the neighboring tribes, and use their influence to bring about a stable peace.

An interview with the chiefs was easily obtained, for they were much cast down in their own eyes after the bloody defeat. A truce was agreed on, and both parties pledged themselves to bring all their difficulties in future before an arbitration, in the English colony at Sierra Leone.

After this another English vessel touched at the Cape, and generously supplied the sick and wounded with necessary comforts. On the second of December the enemy attacked the settlement again with a force of at least fifteen hundred, who were repulsed with a great loss, after the great guns were brought to bear upon them. In this battle there were only twenty-eight men and boys, who won an honorable victory over the fifteen hundred invaders, with the loss of only three killed and four wounded. A final cessation of hostilities was at length effected by the interference of Captain Laing, the celebrated African traveller, who very providentially happened to be on the coast about that time.

*Charles.* The Africans are not such formidable foes as the Indians, are they, Pa'?

*Mr. G.* O no, Charles; one of our missionary stations at the West would hardly come off conquerors against fifteen hundred, or even eight hundred Indians.

*Charles.* Were the natives satisfied with the second battle, or did they court another?

*Mr. G.* The colony was soon afterwards much strengthened by the arrival of a large privateer schooner. Captain Wesley, the commander, with his crew and his mechanics on board, put the settlement in such a fine state of defence, as to render any further molestation hopeless. A tower was built, which was named Stockton castle, in honor of Lieutenant Stockton, who took a very prominent part in the first purchase of Cape Mesurado. The Colonization Society gave the name of Liberia to the territory included in that purchase. Mr. Ashmun was enabled to bear up under the load of care and fatigue which had pressed upon him without interruption, till some time after the battle; he then became feverish, and gradually sunk down into a state of hopeless debility. At this moment of almost despairing suspense, a French practitioner touched at the Cape, and offered his medical services, which were readily accepted.

Mr. Ashmun said, " A portion was exhibited, of which one of the ingredients was a large spoonful of *calomel* ! The Frenchman then proceeded on his voyage, and left me to digest his medicine as well as I could. Such was the weakness of my system, that I could neither throw it off nor take it into the circulation for five days. The crude poison was then voided, and a distressing salivation ensued ; before which all other morbid symptoms disappeared." I mention this fact to show a singular example of the overruling providence of God, and the improvidence of men in suffering so many persons to be destitute of medical and surgical aid in a sickly clime ; hoping in future that the scantiness of the funds of the Society will not, as in this case, be an apology for emigrants being in such a destitute condition. By the middle of February, Mr. Ashmun was able to engage in the active duties of his office ; and on the last day of March, 1823, when the colonists had consumed almost their last morsel of provisions, the joyful tidings of the arrival of the *Cyane*, Captain Spence, filled the hearts of the emigrants with thanksgiving and praise.

It would be difficult to estimate too high the services of this benevolent man, and his generous crew. On hearing of the battle and

sufferings of the colony, he went to Sierra Leone, and fitted up the United States' schooner *Augusta*, for the use of the colonists; and Lieutenant Dashiell, a pious, brave, and accomplished officer, took the command of her, with a crew of six white and six black men, to cruise in the neighborhood, protect the colony, and suppress the slave-trade. This he continued to do with zeal and fidelity till June, and then he was suddenly called to enter into rest. His death was lamented by all who had ever known his worth. His successor was Mr. McMullin, a gallant young officer of great merit. Mr. Seton, the clerk of the *Cyane*, consented to remain for a time, to assist Mr. Ashmun in the arduous duties of the agency. The fever had attacked several of the officers, and among its early victims was Dr. Dix, a generous and zealous friend of the cause; the emigrants shed tears of heart-felt sorrow as they laid him in his lowly bed. The *Cyane* left the Cape the twenty-first of April, and in seven days no less than sixty of her officers and crew sickened of the fever, and forty of them died within a few weeks.

The melancholy news of the disasters and deaths at the Cape reached America just as the brig *Otsego*, with over sixty emigrants,

were ready to embark for Africa, under the direction of Dr. Ayres.

*Janette.* Pa', were they willing to go, after they heard of the sickness and battles?

*Mr. G.* Yes; every one seemed to be firmly resolved to go, and live or die in the land of their ancestors.

*Charles.* Perhaps the worst was not told them.

*Mr. G.* Yes it was, Charles; they were frankly told that great trials awaited them, and probably many of them would fall victims to the climate—that all who felt the least preference to remain were at perfect liberty to stay; they still had time, and a better opportunity to count the cost than they had had before the afflictive intelligence arrived; yet not a single individual faltered. The Otsego had a quick passage, and when they landed at the Cape, the joy of the colonists was unutterable; but unfortunately for the new comers, there were no suitable accommodations prepared. The harassed state in which the first settlers had been kept by the war, and its consequent trials, had prevented their paying that attention to the erection of buildings, and agriculture, that the comfort of the colony demanded. Before the war, their gardens were enclosed, and gave rich promise of abundance of

vegetables ; but all had been destroyed ; the fences had been removed to make pallisades to defend the colony. To these and other causes were to be attributed the fatal sickness that seized upon them almost before the ship was unloaded ; and what added to the distress was Dr. Ayres's illness, he being among the first attacked. Eight deaths followed in rapid succession. In those days of affliction, the kindness and unwearied efforts of the Rev. Lott Cary, who went out in the first company of emigrants, will never be forgotten. Three times a day he visited all the sick, and reported the case of each to Dr. Ayres, at that time too ill to attend in person : having received his instructions, he prepared both medicine and food, and administered it to the poor sufferers, as they lay stretched upon mats on the floor of the huts, many of which were daily drenched with rain.

*Charles.* Was this the same Lott Cary that we read about in the African missionary book, Pa' ?

*Mr. G.* Yes, Charles ; he was a wonderful man, and accomplished a great amount of good to the bodies and souls of his fellow-men.

When the brig Otsego returned to the United States, in June, the amiable Mr. Seton,

who had been suffering under the fever several weeks, took passage in the hope of being benefited by the voyage, but he died within a week after the brig sailed.

*Clara.* Did Dr. Ayres recover?

*Mr. G.* Yes; and one of his first acts was to appoint Mr. Cary guardian to all the boys in the settlement who were destitute of parents, to direct and restrain them. He caused the site of the town to be surveyed, the streets laid out, and the plantations set off to the settlers. His health failed so rapidly before the close of the year, that he felt obliged to return to the United States.

Children, your hour has passed, and I presume your mother and aunt Caroline have returned from their ride.

Who named the colony on Cape Mesurado? Who was the castle named for? What can you relate concerning the Rev. Lott Cary? Who did Dr. Ayres appoint guardian of the African boys?

## CHAPTER VII.

Come and deplore the innumerable ills,  
Which the poor Negro's cup of horror fills;  
Doom'd by white monsters, prodigies in crime,  
To stripes and fetters in a foreign clime.

MRS. GRANVILLE and Miss Spencer had returned home, and were quietly seated with their needles under the eastern piazza, when the children entered the yard. The moment they had ascended the steps, Mrs. Granville asked where their father left the affairs of the colony.

*Charles.* Where Dr. Ayres became sick and sailed for the United States, in December, 1823.

*Mrs. G.* At the annual meeting of the Colonization Society, in February, 1824, General Harper proposed that the territory and settlement under their patronage should be named Liberia, and the town which had been laid out should be called Monrovia, in honor of Mr. Monroe, at that time President of the United States. Both these resolutions passed unanimously, and several others, ex-

pressive of gratitude to Major Laing, the African traveller, the officers and crew of the *Cyane*, and other friends, both English and American, who had aided the feeble colony in times of distress, during the bloody contest with the opposing natives. They also passed a resolution expressive of gratitude, confidence and esteem, for the able services of Dr. Ayres; and they manifested the deepest sorrow for the untimely death of Mr. Seton, midshipman Gordon and his companions, of the British schooner *Driver*, who magnanimously sacrificed their lives for the benefit of the colony.

*Janette.* After Dr. Ayres returned, did not the Board of Managers send out another physician, and more settlers?

*Mrs. G.* Yes; one hundred and five emigrants sailed in the ship *Cyrus*, the first day of January, 1824; but destitute of a physician, for probably Dr. Ayres did not send home word that he was about to return. During the voyage a remarkable degree of health was enjoyed, and the day of their landing at Liberia was the happiest day the settlers had ever seen. However, a melancholy scene soon followed. The dwellings bore no proportion to the number of emigrants, and their exposed situation induced the fever of the

coast, which made such ravages that in a few days every individual of the newly arrived company were bowed down under it.

*Clara.* Without any physician, Ma'?

*Mrs. G.* They had the constant attention of the Rev. Lott Cary, who had acquired considerable knowledge of Dr. Ayres; and he managed the coast fever with great skill, and so much success that every person recovered, except three little children. Mr. Ashmun's health had been in a precarious state some time before the arrival of the *Cyrus*, but he felt more encouraged and animated after the new colonists were settled, as he witnessed their industry, piety, and regular obedience to the laws and regulations of the settlement. The only chance of Mr. Ashmun's recovery seemed to be a change of air, and relaxation from all care as well as labor, and he hastened his arrangements for leaving the colony for a season.

Mr. E. Johnstone, a man of tried worth and ability, was appointed general superintendent; and in April, Mr. Ashmun sailed for the Cape de Verds. The Rev. Mr. Gurley was instructed by the Board of Managers to visit Liberia, and assist in making some new arrangements, and he took passage in the sch'r *Porpoise*, to return by the same vessel.

The captain touched at the Cape de Verds, and Mr. Gurley and Mr. Ashmun had a joyful meeting. The health of the latter was so much improved, that upon receiving an invitation to return to Liberia, with Mr. Gurley, he readily went on board, and they were welcomed at Monrovia the 13th of August. Mr. Gurley was highly gratified with the appearance of the town, and equally so with the fortress, and the improvements in gardening, and farming. It was pleasing to witness the Sabbath schools, and the strict observance of the Sabbath; but there were many evils, that required the application of appropriate remedies. The government was too feeble; some were dissatisfied with the decisions of the Board respecting land; others complained for the want of a physician, medicine, farming-tools, seeds, and a thousand other things, for the comfort of the emigrants, and to aid them in their various callings. During this visit, Mr. Ashmun and Mr. Gurley laid a foundation for an energetic and durable government; they encouraged the desponding, confirmed the hopes of the more sanguine, and strengthened the resolutions of all, so that when he left the colony, a new impulse had been given to piety, industry, and enterprise.

Three day-schools were opened immedi-

ately, and preparatory measures were taken for the establishment of a large school on the monitorial plan. A place of worship for the Baptists, and one for the Methodists were commenced, and carried forward with becoming spirit.

*Janette.* Ma', who had they for ministers?

*Mrs. G.* The Rev. Lott Cary was the Baptist minister.

*Clara.* And a doctor too?

*Mrs. G.* I will tell you something of this wonderful man's history. I have often thought it would be impossible for black or white persons to become acquainted with his faithful and persevering labors for the good of mankind, especially for his countrymen, without imbibing something of his spirit. He was born a slave, about thirty miles below Richmond, in Virginia. In 1804, he was sent to Richmond to labor in a ware-house. At that time he was intemperate and profane, but God in tender love to Africa, and the cause of Zion, gave him a *new heart*, and in 1807 he was received into the Baptist church in Richmond, by the Rev. Mr. Courtney, at that time pastor. Soon after making a profession of religion, he heard a sermon preached from the conversation of Christ with Nicodemus, and it awakened in him an ardent desire to learn to read. He

obtained a Testament, and commenced learning his letters, by trying to read the chapter which contains the conversation.

*Clara.* Ma', what chapter is it?

*Mrs. G.* The third chapter of John. His anxiety to learn was apparent to the people in the ware-house, and one of the young gentlemen instructed him daily, as he found opportunity. He made such rapid progress, that in a little time he was able to read understandingly, and write well enough to make out tickets for the draymen, and superintend the shipment of tobacco.

I have been told that his correctness and fidelity were often rewarded by his employer with a five dollar bill, and that with such presents and some trifling perquisites in the store, he obtained a sum sufficient to buy his own freedom. His wife died in 1813, and soon afterwards he purchased his two little children and himself.

*Charles.* Mother, do you know how much he paid?

*Mrs. G.* Eight hundred and fifty dollars.

*Janette.* Do you think his presents for faithfulness amounted to that sum in nine years?

*Mrs. G.* No; but he saved enough, besides what he earned for his owner, to pay for him-

self; and several merchants, who knew his worth, gave him money to buy his little ones.

*Janette.* Did he ever marry again?

*Mrs. G.* Yes; he married a pious woman soon after the death of his first wife. But she lived only a few months after her arrival in Africa. For his third wife he took a young woman, who went to Africa from Petersburg in Virginia.

*Charles.* When did he become a minister?

*Mrs. G.* From the time of his conversion, he used to hold meetings with colored people, and exhort them to repentance and faith in Christ. I once heard it remarked, that his sermons frequently exhibited "a boldness of thought, and a strength of native intellect, which no acquirement could have given him."

The other ministers were Colston M. Waring of Petersburg, and a Mr. Lewis of Richmond. Before Mr. Cary left America, a little church was formed, consisting of seven or eight persons, who all settled at Monrovia, except Colin Teague. He remained at Sierra Leone, when the emigrants removed to Cape Mesurado.

*Janette.* This church, I suppose, chose Mr. Cary their minister.

*Mrs. G.* Yes; and were favored with his instructions from the foundation of the settle-

ment at Monrovia. During the first years of the colony, when the trials were the most severe, he uniformly said that all the riches and honors in America could not induce him to return. Mr. Ashmun highly respected him, and cherished for him an ardent friendship. His name will be had in everlasting remembrance by the friends of Africa. Early in 1825, many persons, under his preaching, became concerned for their souls, which issued in the hopeful conversion of a considerable number. I believe that his church contained sixty members in 1826.

In the winter of 1825, the brig *Hunter*, of Norfolk, carried out emigrants, stores, and lumber. The greater part of the emigrants were farmers from Virginia, who felt unwilling to settle down on the town lots, which were all small. They wanted plantations; this led Mr. Ashmun to enter into a negotiation with the kings and head men, for another tract of land, suitable for plantations; and in May, 1825, it was brought to a happy issue, by a grant of the richest land on the St. Paul's river, a few miles from the Cape. These emigrants suffered less with the fever, than any company that had preceded them, but several children died.

January 4, 1826, the brig *Vine* sailed from

Boston with thirty-four emigrants, eighteen of whom, at their own request, were formed into a church just before they sailed.

Two days before they embarked, a subscription was opened, and about six hundred dollars obtained, besides a good bell, worth fifty dollars—a printing press—nearly three hundred dollars worth of type—ink—paper—office furniture, and every thing necessary for a complete printing establishment. The salary of Mr. Charles L. Force, the printer, was paid in advance.

*Charles.* Where was the bell to be hung?

*Mrs. G.* Upon the monitorial school-house. A fine library was collected and sent out, principally by the Rev. Chester Wright, of Montpelier, Vermont; with globes, slates, quills, &c.

*Janette.* And furniture for houses, too, I suppose.

*Mrs. G.* Yes; and clothes, blacksmith's tools, and a variety of other articles, in such abundance, that the vessel was entirely filled.

*Janette.* Who went out in this richly freighted ship as agent, mother?

*Mrs. G.* The Rev. Mr. Sessions, but he was directed to return in the same ship. The Rev. C. Holton went out as a missionary, and Dr. Hunt, physician. The ship Indian Chief

sailed from Norfolk, with more than one hundred and fifty emigrants, a few weeks after the departure of the *Vine*. This ship was laden with military stores, provisions, and the frames of five large buildings, purchased by the government, to accommodate those captured Africans, who from time to time have been brought into the different States, contrary to the laws. This ship carried out Dr. Peaco, a surgeon in the navy, in the double capacity of government agent, and physician to the colony. The emigrants who went with him, were mostly from North Carolina and Virginia, and included some excellent mechanics; but a large proportion of them were bred farmers. It was a valuable company, and the substantial tokens of regard they received from people at Norfolk, bore strong testimony to the respect and confidence they had inspired among the friends of colonization in that city.

*Janette.* Do tell us what became of the *Vine* and *Indian Chief*?

*Mrs. G.* They both had an easy voyage, and landed in comfort and safety at Liberia; the *Vine* on the seventh of February, and the *Indian Chief* the twenty-second of March, 1826. The printing press was received with enthusiastic joy, and two hundred dollars immediately subscribed towards publishing a

newspaper. Mr. Force entered upon his labors with great zeal, but was attacked with the coast-fever soon afterwards, and his death was announced in the third paper that was issued from his press. Mr. Sessions survived him but a short time. Mr. Holton was very sick for a few days, and then appeared to be recovering, but by taking improper food he relapsed, and on the third of July he closed his earthly pilgrimage. He was calm and resigned to the last, and died in the full hope of a blessed immortality. The loss of this exemplary and devoted man retarded the progress of education, and, with the disappointment occasioned by the removal of Mr. Force, cast a gloom over the whole colony.

The emigrants on board the *Indian Chief* were mostly from North Carolina, and the change of climate scarcely affected them enough to produce severe sickness in a single instance. A *receptacle* had been prepared before they arrived, their provisions and medicine were abundant, and they were favored with the attendance of a skillful physician, and were very soon in a situation to settle upon their own lands, which were assigned them on the St. Paul's river. Their settlement was called Caldwell. A building had been erected, at the expense of government, at that

place, a hundred feet in length, which proved of great use to the settlers, while they were building their own houses upon their plantations.

*Charles.* How large were the plantations?

*Mrs. G.* From five to ten acres. The farmers suffered extremely from the encroachments of wild animals and insects, two or three years, and some of them became somewhat discouraged, and engaged in trade and other employments.

*Charles.* Do you know how many plantations or farms they have under cultivation?

*Mrs. G.* No, I do not know how many they now have; in 1826, there were at the Cape more than a hundred, besides those on Stockton creek, called the *half-way farms*, which made more than two hundred and seventy.

*Janette.* Why did they call the settlement, on Stockton creek, the *half-way farms*?

*Mrs. G.* Because it was equally distant from Monrovia and Caldwell, the St. Paul's settlement. Their farms might have been made very profitable, had not the settlers been so anxious to engage in commerce, which has increased with almost unexampled rapidity. More than five years ago, fifteen vessels touched at Monrovia in about six months,

that purchased between forty and fifty thousand dollars worth of country produce, upon which the exporters made large profits. As the colony increased, Mr. Ashmun found it important to secure larger territory, and after some difficulty he succeeded in purchasing of Young Sesters a fine tract, ninety miles south of Monrovia, besides another tract, nearer the Cape, called the Junk territory. The chief of the Sesters agreed to put up a good store-house, and furnish laborers to cultivate forty acres of rice.

*Charles.* What year was this purchase made, mother? and who took charge of it?

*Mrs. G.* In 1826. A colored family moved down to the Sesters' country, and took charge of the plantation, and another family moved to the trading-house, built in the neighborhood of the Junk territory.

*Charles.* The colony must have been in possession of a large extent of country at that time.

*Mrs. G.* Yes; the colonial government extended from Cape Mount, to Tradetown, including one hundred and fifty miles of coast. Bushrod Island was included in Mr. Ashmun's purchase, one of the most beautiful spots in Africa. It is situated about four miles from the mouth of St. John's river, and not more than six miles long and a third of a mile wide.

*Janette.* What is the appearance of the inland country, as you leave the neighborhood of the coast?

*Mrs. G.* A uniform upland country, moderately elevated, and abounding in rivulets and unfailing springs of pure water; the soil is decidedly richer than any upon the coast.

*Clara.* Mother, did Mr. Holton's death prevent the opening of a school?

*Mrs. G.* For a time; but Rev. Mr. Cary and Mr. Lewis commenced a missionary school, which sometimes contained nearly sixty scholars; some of the boys belonged to the first families in the country. Books, stationary, and clothes have been sent from benevolent individuals in the United States, but the principal expense of this establishment has been defrayed by the Baptist Missionary Society of Richmond, Virginia. This Society has done very much toward the support of these teachers, whose management of the scholars has been admirable.

*Janette.* Had they no school for the African girls?

*Mrs. G.* Yes; there was one for liberated African females, and one for the boys, but the girls made much more rapid improvement than the boys.

*Charles.* How were these boys and girls brought into the colony?

*Mrs. G.* Before Mr. Ashmun purchased so much land on the coast, from Cape Mount to Tradetown was a continued slave market. The piratical slave ships took in slaves in sight of Monrovia, and hovered over the coast in all directions. Mr. Ashmun, with the aid of two or three armed vessels, pursued them, and was so fortunate as to recover fifty young slaves from one ship. He rescued nearly one hundred more, whom he found at a slave factory, waiting for a ship. The most of all these recovered children and youth he put into the schools of the colony.

*Charles.* Was not Mr. Ashmun a terror to the natives, especially the slave dealers?

*Mrs. G.* Yes, they feared him; but the natives felt a reverence, and love for him, as well as fear. His firmness and integrity won their esteem and confidence, and many of the kings and head-men were anxious to bring their sons into the colony, to be trained up in civilized habits, and to acquire a knowledge of letters and the arts.

*Janette.* Were not the children of the settlers put to school?

*Mrs. G.* Yes; the girls had a female teacher, and the boys a master. There was

a private school opened at Caldwell, soon after that settlement was formed ; it contained thirty or forty scholars, supported by the parents, except the books, and a few things furnished by Mr. Ashmun.

*Janette.* Do not the colored people, who went out to Africa, value education more than those who remain here ?

*Mrs. G.* They do. Many of those who have gone, are deeply interested in the concerns of education, and moral improvement. A part of the old agency house has been fitted up for a reading room, and for the colonial library, which contains more than a thousand volumes, of valuable books. In the same building there is a museum of African curiosities, which is almost daily increasing in value.

*Charles.* Monrovia must be quite a large place.

*Mrs. G.* Yes ; it has a Baptist and Methodist meeting-house, a new agency house, a market house, a monitorial school-house, and a town house. This town makes a pretty appearance, as you approach it from sea.

In February, 1827, almost a hundred emigrants, from North Carolina, sailed in the *Doris* for Liberia. The Society of Quakers contributed six hundred dollars toward their outfit ; nearly half the whole number had

been brought up by them. They were well clothed, and had a good supply of provisions and medicine. Rev. Mr. McGill went out with them as teacher. They reached Monrovia, on the eleventh of April, in good health, and during the sickness that summer, only two deaths occurred, and both of those were children. They proceeded to Caldwell, and found excellent accommodations in the *receptacle* built by government. Soon after the departure of the *Doris*, a vessel was chartered by government, to convey one hundred and forty-four re-captured Africans to their native land; and Dr. Peaco, who had returned to the United States, was to take charge of them, had not his death prevented. Dr. Todsén was appointed government agent and physician. They sailed from Savannah, in Georgia, the tenth of July, and reached the Cape the last week in August, 1827.

*Janette.* How were they all disposed of?

*Mrs. G.* In seven days after they landed, they were all hired by the old settlers, except twenty, who, for a little time, were supported by the United States. They were to receive lots of land the same as other colonists, when they wished to settle in that way. Mr. Dermid gave twenty-six of his slaves their freedom, having gained their consent to go home

to Africa. Some of them were pious; all sober and industrious. About the time this company sailed, more than a hundred and sixty others went to Monrovia from North Carolina, furnished with the most liberal supplies of food, clothing, and implements of industry; making five hundred and twenty-four persons of color who went to Liberia in 1827. That was a year of unexampled prosperity in the colony. The government was administered with mildness and energy, and the state of society seemed to indicate that the time was rapidly approaching, when the people would be in a situation to govern themselves without the aid of agents from the government or from the Colonization Society.

The accession of Cape Mount to the colonial possessions was a subject for devout thanksgiving. State Societies, auxiliary to the American Colonization Society, began to be formed, and in 1827, Maryland appropriated a thousand dollars a year, for ten years, towards defraying the expenses of the colored freemen within her limits, who might wish to join the colony. Before the year 1827, of which I am now speaking, there had been but one cow owned in the colony, and that was brought from Sierra Leone, five years before.

In November, 1827, they had fourteen cows, and milk began to be plenty.

*Janette.* Why did they do without cows so long?

*Mrs. G.* The natives would not drive them from the country, having till then prohibited any cattle, except bullocks, to be drove to the Cape.

*Charles.* Had they horses?

*Mrs. G.* The first horse was introduced into the colony in October, 1827, by Francis Devany, the high-sheriff. Asses were brought there about the same time.

*Charles.* How happened the natives to change their customs?

*Mrs. G.* The slave trade had received a death blow for a great distance; and you know the Africans must trade in something; and when they could no longer buy and sell men, they were willing to deal in cattle and horses.

*Charles.* Mr. Ashmun's labors must have been great, after the colony began to increase so rapidly.

*Mrs. G.* Yes; they were so great that he felt unable to carry such a burden. About the time the *Doris* arrived, he had important business to transact with six vessels. A Spanish pirate had threatened an attack, and

the colony must be defended : he was negotiating with king Boatswain, and other kings and chiefs in the interior, about a road through their respective countries, to facilitate trade ; and he had to attend personally to all the arrangements for the new comers, who arrived in the midst of this accumulated pressure of business. He was enabled to sustain all these cares and duties, and many others, till the fifth of February, 1828, when he was compelled to yield to an attack of fever, which, to use his own expressions, kept him "tossing upon the brink of eternity a long time." However, between the paroxysms of fever and delirium, he gave directions to his faithful people, who executed them with promptness and fidelity ; so that the interests of the colony suffered very little from his illness. From the moment he began to recover, he made arrangements for leaving the colony for a season, aware that his constitution was well nigh, if not wholly, broken down. He soon perceived that the only hope of regaining tolerable health depended upon a speedy change of climate ; he therefore left the Rev. Lott Cary, his substitute in the colonial department, and prepared to return to the United States in the *Doris*. He left the colony in tears ; almost the whole population followed him to

the ship; three military companies escorted him, in token of their respect and love. Mr. Cary wrote at that time,—“Never, I suppose, were greater tokens of respect shown by any community taking leave of their head; he is, indeed, dear to this people; and it will be a joyful day when we are again permitted to see him.”

*Janette.* Mother, did he ever go back?

*Mrs. G.* No; Janette, the ship touched at St. Bartholomews, where he experienced all the attentions kindness could prompt, and the most skillful physician bestow. But his weakness continued to increase so much, that he was obliged to let the *Doris* proceed on her voyage without him. However, he gradually recruited, and his physician consented to his embarking for New Haven, Connecticut, on the ninth of July, where he arrived on the tenth of August, in a deplorably weak condition.

The assiduity of ardent friendship, the advice of the first physicians, and the unceasing prayers of Christians, cheered his heart, and for a few days seemed to invigorate his exhausted powers; but afterwards he sunk very rapidly, and expired without a sigh or a groan, on the twenty-fifth of August, 1823.

*Janette.* O mother, what did Africa do?

*Mrs. G.* She mourned over his tomb with thousands in America, who revered and loved him in his life, and honored him at death. A beautiful monument was placed over his grave, which your aunt Caroline will describe to you, for she has seen it.

*Charles.* Who was appointed his successor?

*Mrs. G.* Dr. Richard Randall, of Washington; he was accompanied by Dr. Mechlin, a young physician of great promise. They sailed for Liberia in November, 1828. And in January 1829, the ship Harmony, Captain Johnston, with one hundred and sixty select emigrants of the most respectable character, furnished with every thing necessary to health, comfort, and usefulness. This ship carried out a large assortment of trade goods, which were owned by the emigrants on board, many of whom were distinguished for intelligence, influence, and piety. The prince Abduhl Rahhahman, his wife, the Rev. Mr. Payne and Rev. Mr. Turner, colored ministers, went out passengers in the same ship.

*Janette.* Ma', who was prince Abduhl Rahhahman?

*Mrs. G.* He was a Moorish Prince, born at Tombuctoo, in Africa. Having spent a few of his early years at Teemboo, he returned to the place of his nativity, and finished his

education. His father was king of Tombuctoo, and when Prince was a little boy, he left his kingdom and went to Foota Jallou, a country as large as New England, a distance of twelve hundred miles ; and he eventually became king of Teemboo. When Prince was about twenty-six years old, it is said he entered the army of the king of Foota Jallou, and soon rose to distinction. While carrying on a war with a neighboring tribe, he was taken prisoner, with almost all his army, put on board a slave-ship, and sold in the West Indies. He was carried from thence to Natchez, in the United States, where he lived in slavery forty years. In the youthful days of Prince, Dr. Cox, an American surgeon, went on shore in Africa, lost his path, and not being discovered, his ship proceeded on her voyage. The doctor wandered into the country, and after travelling several days, he wounded his leg, and became sick, and in this situation, he was received by the father of Prince, who with his son treated him with unbounded kindness and hospitality, for six months, at the capital of the Foota Jallou country. It was a singular providence, that on the return of the same ship which the doctor left, he should return to America in less than a year from the time he first landed in Africa. Many years had passed away, when Dr. Cox

was riding through the streets of Natchez—I will relate the interview in the words of Prince.

“I said to a man who came with me from Africa, Sambo, that man rides like a white man I saw in my country. See when he comes by ; if he opens but one eye, that is the same man. When he came up, hating to stop him without reason, I said, Master, you want to buy some potatoes ? He asked, What potatoes have you ? While he looked at the potatoes, I observed him carefully, and knew him, but he did not know me. He said, Boy, where did you come from ? I said, From Col. F——’s. He said, He did not raise you, you came from Teemboo ? I answered, Yes, sir. He said, Is your name Abduhl Rahbahman ? I said, Yes, sir. Then springing from his horse, he embraced me, and inquired how I came to this country ? Then he said, Dash down the potatoes, and come to my house. I said, I could not, but must take the potatoes home. He rode quickly, and called a negro woman to take the potatoes from my head. Then he sent for Gov. W—— to come and see me. He told the governor, if any money would purchase me, he would buy me and send me home. The next morning he inquired how much would purchase me, but my master was

unwilling to sell me. He offered large sums for me, but they were refused. Then he said to master, If you cannot part with him, use him well. After Dr. Cox died, his son offered a great price for me."

*Janette.* O how wonderful! How long had he been a slave at that time?

*Mrs. G.* Sixteen years. Dr. Cox had then just taken up his residence at Natchez. After he obtained his freedom he said, "I have lived with Col. F—— forty years. Thirty years I labored hard. The last ten years I have been indulged a good deal."

*Charles.* How old was he then?

*Mrs. G.* Seventy. He had a wife, five children, and eight grand children. He visited Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, Boston, and other places, and received money enough to pay for all that belonged to him. I was at Boston, while he was there, and often saw him. I felt ashamed to see a man begging money to redeem his wife and children, in the streets of our *free* and happy republic, and blushed for the dishonor of my country.

*Charles.* If I live to be a man, I will try to have slavery blotted out of the land.

*Janette.* Ma', how did Prince look?

*Mrs. G.* When I saw him, he wore a

green frock coat, yellow sandals, and a white muslin turban. He was tall, and very erect; his form was slender, but he had a dignified air. His complexion was black, but his features were not African, though large.

*Janette.* Did he ever find his friends?

*Mrs. G.* No; he died of dysentery soon after his arrival at Africa.

*Janette.* And what became of the new agent and Dr. Mechlin?

*Mrs. G.* They wrote home a glowing description of the town of Monrovia, the gardens, plantations and buildings of the settlers. Dr. Randall spoke in the highest terms of the ability and fidelity of Mr. Cary, and thought he deserved great credit for his successful efforts in laying out a pleasant town for the recaptured Africans. He proposed to call it *Cary-town*, and the Board of Managers confirmed his choice.

I cannot relate any more this afternoon.

Why was the principal town at Liberia called Monrovia? Who laid the foundations of a durable government at Liberia? When? When did the brig *Vine* sail from Boston with emigrants? Relate all you can remember concerning the missionary and printer. Give an account of those emigrants who sailed in the ship *Indian Chief*. What have you read about the schools? Do you remember when cattle and horses were introduced into the colony? When did Mr. Ashmun leave the colony? When and where did he die? Who succeeded him as governor? Give an account of Prince Abdulh Rahhahman.

## CHAPTER VIII.

Land of our fathers—Africa,  
We turn our thoughts to thee,—  
To gain thy shores we'll gladly bear  
The storm upon the sea.

“Who can tell me where your mother left the history?” said Miss Caroline. “I can,” said Clara. “Dr. Mechlin had described the gardens, and plantations of the settlers.”

*Caroline.* Yes; he found a much greater spirit of enterprise than he anticipated when he left this country. Three enterprising colonists had just returned from an exploring tour as far as Bo-Poro, king Boatswain's town, which they found well fortified, and it contained a thousand houses at least. They found the St. Paul's river half a mile wide, twenty-five or thirty miles above its mouth, the water deep, and free from obstructions to navigation.

*Charles.* Did the men go up the country merely to see it?

*Caroline.* No; their first object was to regulate the conditions of trade with Boatswain;

but Mr. Ashmun had for years been anxious to ascertain the truth of the statements which he had often heard made, that from Boatswain's country, there was a free communication with a people within two hundred miles, who had made considerable advancement in civilization, and who used the Arabic language. A little more light was thrown upon the subject, but it was still left in uncertainty how much truth was in the reports in circulation.

*Charles.* How could they convey goods to Boatswain's town?

*Caroline.* Upon the backs of men.

*Charles.* That must have been very expensive.

*Caroline.* Not very expensive; only fifty cents a hundred up to Bo-Poro, and the same back again.

*Janette.* What kind of roads did they find?

*Caroline.* Little foot-paths. When they went up they entered such a path about six miles from the mouth of the St. Paul's, and struck into immense forests, filled with elephants, leopards, and innumerable wild beasts, without seeing a single settlement till within twenty miles of Bo-Poro. The travellers met many elephant hunters, but they were very civil and obliging.

*Charles.* Have none of the agents made long journeys in Africa?

*Caroline.* Mr. Ashmun, you know, explored the coast, and drew charts, but he never made any very long inland journeys; I believe Dr. Randolph's journey up the St. Paul's, was the longest that has ever been taken by any of the agents or physicians.

*Charles.* Did he take the same rout that those did who went to Bo-Poro?

*Caroline.* Not exactly, though he saw a few of the places they described. He crossed one very beautiful plain, without any trees or shrubs over six feet high, except here and there a majestic palm-tree, eighty or a hundred feet high; near the tops of them broad pea-green leaves shoot forth, resembling an open umbrella, measuring thirty feet across.

This plain, or *prairie*, was a favorite resort of the elephants, and wild cattle, being covered with their foot prints. After crossing it, they ascended a hill or mountain, elevated two hundred feet above the plain, and when they reached the summit, the St. Paul's river broke upon their view, intercepted only by the thick foliage of the trees. The water of this river is so clear, that you can see the bottom where the water is twenty feet deep, and can see the fishes play many yards distant. When

they began to descend the hill, it was very amusing to see them scramble along. A Krooman had been hired to carry the provisions, and a little native boy carried a small iron pot to cook in ; his foot slipped, and he and his pot rolled down the hill together. In this way, he upset the Krooman, who rolled on after him, till they came within a few yards of a precipice, fifty feet high, and had they not caught hold of some bushes, all would have gone over in a heap.

*Charles.* What became of the pot and the provisions ?

*Caroline.* The pot was dashed in a thousand pieces, and the basket turned topsy turvey so many times, that it was difficult to separate the different articles ; but being tied close, nothing was lost. The poor boy was laughed at all the way, for his fall, and the Krooman was at first quite vexed, but afterwards said, "I no care ; I no break the governor's plate." At night they built them a snug little arbor, and the natives built several large fires to keep off the wild beasts. In the morning they took up their line of march, and reached Millsburgh in safety.

*Janette.* Where was that, aunt Caroline ?

*Caroline.* The frontier settlement, about twenty miles from Monrovia. It was so named

in honor of Mr. Mills and Mr. Burgess, whose visit to Africa preceded the establishment of a colony.

*Clara.* Is Dr. Randall now at Liberia?

*Caroline.* No, my dear; he died of the country fever, a few weeks after he made this journey. He soon recovered from his first attack, but neglected himself, and had another, which reduced him lower than the first; however, from this he began to recover, but even before he was able to walk, he insisted upon being carried to the beds of the sick, to prescribe for them. The exertion was too much for him, and retarded his restoration, though he still gradually improved till he was able to do a little. While in this feeble state, the government schooner got on to the sand-bar, and no one could restrain him from going on board, where he labored in the heat and wet, till he received a *stroke from the sun*, and was carried home delirious, but no sooner was he partially restored, than he again exposed himself, and was seized with a most violent and fatal fever, which cut him off in the midst of his usefulness.

*Charles.* Aunt Caroline, will you not tell us about him, as mother did about Mr. Bacon and Mr. Ashmun? I like to hear about good men.

*Caroline.* Dr. Randall was born at Annapolis in the State of Maryland; and was educated at St. John's college. He studied medicine with Dr. Ridgely of Annapolis, and afterwards took his degree, as doctor of medicine, at the medical school at Philadelphia. In 1818 he was appointed surgeon's mate in the army, and not long afterwards was raised to the rank of post surgeon. In 1825, he resigned his commission, and commenced practice in the city of Washington. Two years afterwards, he was elected professor of chemistry in the medical department of Columbia college. He was a man of sound judgment, ardent affections and unbounded benevolence. His medical and military knowledge, with all his other varied attainments, rendered him remarkably well qualified to fill such a highly responsible station. There were not wanting persons who warned him of the dangers to which the situation would expose him, and, with the warmest affection, he was intreated to remain at home; but he replied, "that in doing his duty, he disregarded his life; that with his feelings and purpose, he could readily exchange the endearing intercourse of relations, the alluring pleasures of refined society, the promised success of professional exertion, for the humble

duty of promoting the happiness of the poor negroes of Africa, *and be happy in so doing.*"

*Janette.* Did Dr. Mechlin die too, aunt Caroline?

*Caroline.* No, my dear; he was apparently much sicker than Dr. Randall, but he was more prudent, and implicitly followed the advice of those who had long lived in that climate.

*Charles.* Was he colonial agent after Dr. Randall's death?

*Caroline.* Yes; and by this change the colony were deprived of his valuable services as a physician; however, the Board of Managers took the earliest opportunity to appoint Dr. Anderson, of Hagarstown, in Maryland, physician and assistant agent. He sailed for Africa, January 16, 1830, in the brig *Liberia*, which had been chartered by the citizens of Philadelphia. A gentleman in Georgia had given freedom to thirty of his slaves, with a view to send them to Africa in this ship; but when the poor fellows had walked six hundred miles, the heavy tidings came to their ears, that the ship had sailed almost a week before; sixty emigrants and two Swiss missionaries sailed in the *Liberia* with Dr. Anderson.

*Janette.* Where did these missionaries come from ?

*Caroline.* From the missionary seminary in Basle, Switzerland. I will tell you more about them another time. In addition to those I have already mentioned, there was the Rev. George Erskine, a Presbyterian minister from Tennessee, with his wife, five children, and his mother, who was eighty years old, born in Africa. Capt. Sherman said that during the voyage, Mr. Erskine preached sermons that would have been listened to with pleasure by any Christian audience. Among the emigrants was a very aged man, named Cook ; his family consisted of thirty persons, he seemed like an old patriarch. They had a passage of forty-two days, and all were safely landed in good health and spirits, and immediately went up the St. Paul's, and settled at Caldwell. Mr. Erskine said to Capt. Sherman, at parting, "I can never be thankful enough to God for directing my views to this country." Mr. Erskine was brought into notice by the Rev. Dr. Anderson, of Maryville. He aided him in acquiring a good knowledge of theology, and assisted him in procuring funds to purchase his own freedom and that of his family.

The other emigrants who went out with

Capt. Sherman, often visited Monrovia, during his stay, and uniformly expressed much satisfaction with their situation and prospects.

Nearly a hundred captured Africans had been brought into the United States, and, at the expense of government, had been sent home to Africa, under the superintendence of A. H. Mechlin, Esq. (a brother of Dr. Mechlin) and Dr. Smith. They sailed from the United States in the Washington barge, with a captain so ignorant that after sailing eighty-seven days, they put into Barbadoes, in a miserable condition. The barge was unfit to proceed on the voyage, and the British brig *Heroine* was chartered to take them to Liberia, where they landed March 5, 1830. Nine had died on the passage. The rest were in fine health, after they had been settled a little time on Bushrod Island.

*Charles.* I do not remember where that is, aunt Caroline.

*Caroline.* A short distance from Caldwell, with which it will soon be connected by a bridge.

*Janette.* How did Dr. Anderson find the colony?

*Caroline.* In general prosperity; but he found Dr. Mechlin in a very feeble state of

health ; he had been suffering some time under a liver complaint, and he returned to America, with Capt. Sherman of the Liberia, leaving Dr. Anderson at the head of the colony. The multiplied labors and anxieties which pressed upon him were great, but he was sustained in the faithful discharge of all his duties till he was attacked with the fever. After lingering twelve days, he expired on the twelfth of April, about two months after he landed.

*Charles.* Was he imprudent in his sickness?

*Caroline.* I never heard him accused of being careless. Many persons soon die in Africa, who are among the most prudent, but it is thought that a larger number of white people die there than would if they took proper care of themselves a few months after their arrival. Dr. Anderson's death was deeply lamented both at Liberia and in the United States. He was a most amiable man and devoted Christian. In his last hours he desired to have this sentence, "Jesus, for thee I live, for thee I die !" inscribed upon his tomb-stone.

*Charles.* How old was he?

*Caroline.* About twenty-eight. He left a most interesting and endeared family circle for the sake of aiding in the good cause of estab-

lishing a Christian colony on the coast of Africa, that land of darkness, superstition and crime.

*Clara.* Who succeeded him in the agency?

*Caroline.* Mr. Williams, who at that time was vice-agent.

*Janette.* Did many of the emigrants who went out in the Liberia die of fever?

*Caroline.* Mrs. Erskine, one of her daughters, and Mrs. Cook, died about the same time with Dr. Anderson. Mr. Erskine did not long survive. In the midst of these multiplied sorrows, the Rev. Lott Cary came to an untimely end by the explosion of the magazine.

*Charles.* How did it happen?

*Caroline.* A spark fell from a candle which was communicated to some powder. The death of this good man occasioned many tears in Liberia, and many parts of the United States.

*Charles.* I wonder the Society have not been discouraged, and abandoned the colony. It seems as if half who go die.

*Caroline.* Why, Charles, I am surprised to hear you express such cowardly sentiments. You must look over your history of the several States again, and see what Plymouth was ten years after the landing of the Pilgrims.

That little colony, after struggling ten years, could number only three hundred inhabitants, and Liberia has already almost two thousand!

Let us look at Jamestown in Virginia; that colony was a continued scene of riot, disorder, famine, and desolation, the twenty-five first years of its existence. In 1585, when the settlement was first attempted, almost five hundred colonists were landed, well supplied with provisions and all needful stores. They had three ships, forts, arms, tools, clothes, and a valuable assortment of trade goods, suited to Indian customers; five hundred hogs, as many fowls, with plenty of sheep and goats. Nets for fishing, boats, and other things necessary in their circumstances. But being an idle, intemperate, and dissolute set of people, "their time and provisions were consumed in riot; their utensils were stolen, or destroyed; their hogs, sheep, and fowls, killed and carried off by the Indians. The sword without, and famine and sickness within, soon made among them surprising destruction. Within the term of six months, of their whole number, sixty only survived. These were the most poor, famishing wretches, subsisting chiefly on herbs, acorns and berries. Such was the famine, that they fed on the skins of the horses: nay, they boiled and *ate the flesh of the dead.*" At that

awful moment relief came, and afterwards a better class of settlers arrived and the colony prospered. Why, I would ask, should we expect to plant a colony without the loss of some lives and much treasure, any more than those who have gone before us? To the colored people, the climate of Liberia is perfectly agreeable, and no white persons are allowed to reside there, except the agents, missionaries, and teachers of schools; and there is no danger but that enough Christian philanthropists will be found to fill these stations, till there are colored men enough educated, and properly qualified, to manage all the concerns of church and state. I have a circular which was prepared by the colonists, and sent to their colored brethren in the United States, which I will read to you, when I have related what happened after the death of Mr. Erskine.

The Colonization Society, affected by the situation of those liberated slaves who had travelled so far, and been disappointed of a passage to their country, chartered the brig *Montgomery*, and put them on board, with about forty other emigrants.

*Clara.* Do you know who gave liberty to the thirty slaves?

*Caroline.* Yes; J. Early, Esq. They sailed in April, 1830; most of the whole com-

pany were sober, industrious persons, and a considerable number were pious. Two of them were preachers. The Pennsylvania Society paid a large part of the expense of this reinforcement, and a sum of four thousand dollars was raised in the city of Philadelphia in the course of a few weeks, for the purpose of defraying the expense of removing any slaves whom their masters might please to liberate for colonists in Liberia.

*Janette.* Were the owners of slaves willing to give them freedom?

*Caroline.* Yes, some were ; and the number is daily increasing. C. Balton, Esq. of Savannah, and a few other gentlemen emancipated twenty ; Miss Van Meter seven, and Miss Blackburn sent out twelve of her slaves. One of the females was so well educated as to make a very useful school-mistress. She was fitted out with spelling-books, lessons and pictures for an infant school, and a library of considerable value. Two of Miss Blackburn's women had husbands, and with the assistance of a few friends, she purchased both, to prevent the separation of families.

*Janette.* How generous ! Do you know how much she paid for them ?

*Caroline.* Eight hundred dollars. She received from her friends only one hundred

and fifty dollars ; so that allowing all her slaves to be worth as much as these men, she gave equal to four or five thousand dollars.

*Janette.* I did not know slaves were worth so much money.

*Caroline.* A gentleman in New Orleans told me, he had two house slaves for whom he paid fifteen hundred dollars.

*Janette.* Aunt Caroline, could you deal in slaves ?

*Caroline.* No, I could not ; but I suppose I am indebted to my education for much of the aversion I feel to slavery. The people in Philadelphia and Baltimore have done a great deal for the Colonization Society. They have quite recently raised a pretty large sum to purchase a Methodist preacher, his wife and four children, who wish to go to Liberia. Richmond has taken a noble stand in this good work ; the Christians there have trained up their little children to feel and act like high minded patriots, and philanthropists.

*Charles.* Do you think New England has done her part towards building up Liberia ?

*Caroline.* No, I do not. However, I think public sentiment is becoming much more favorable, and I expect the time is rapidly approaching when there will be a stronger sympathy, and more liberality manifested in the

eastern and middle States, than there is at present at the south.

When the scholars in all our Sabbath schools awake to the importance of the subject, the free people of color in the United States will see better days ; and I trust they will know how to prize the opportunity of going to a country where they may enjoy something more than the *name* of freedom.

*Clara.* Do all the children at Liberia go to the Sabbath school ?

*Caroline.* Nearly all. About a year ago, a Sabbath School Society was formed at Liberia, and since then almost every young man in the colony has connected himself with it as a teacher or scholar, and I presume most of the smaller children attend. I think it would be an excellent plan for the members of our Sabbath schools to subscribe enough to furnish all the Sabbath schools in the colony with suitable libraries. Could not you and your sisters do a little towards it, and encourage others to do as much, Charles ?

*Charles.* Why, yes, aunt Caroline ; I wonder I never thought of it before. Last year we sent books to the Greek children, and to three Sabbath schools in Illinois, and I will ask Pa' if he would not like to have us make out a box for Liberia.

*Caroline.* That will be a good plan ; books are needed there very much. There is an *orphan school*, which was established by Rev. Mr. Sessing, one of the Swiss missionaries, and the orphan children of the natives, as well as those of the emigrants, were admitted. These want books.

*Janette.* Aunt Caroline, have you ever told us what became of Dr. Mechlin, after he returned to the United States ?

*Caroline.* No, I believe I have not ; but he recovered, and after making all the effort his health would admit, he returned to Liberia in the ship *Carolinian*, in October, 1830, with one hundred and seven emigrants. Dr. Humphries went out in the same ship, as colonial physician and assistant agent ; his habits were consumptive, and it was hoped he would recover his health by going to a warm country.

*Charles.* Did he regain his health ?

*Caroline.* No, he died of a pulmonary affection, in February, 1831.

*Charles.* Are they again left without the aid of a physician ?

*Caroline.* No ; Dr. Todsén sailed about a month after Dr. Mechlin, in the brig *Volador*, with eighty-three passengers. The Baptist Board of Foreign Missions, sent out the Rev.

Mr. Skinner to establish a Baptist mission at Liberia. He was accompanied by Mrs. Skinner, and a little daughter; both died soon after their arrival, and Mr. Skinner had several attacks of the fever, which reduced him so low that the only hope of preserving his life was returning to a cool climate. He sailed for America, but died on the passage; you will find all the particulars of the sickness and triumphant deaths of this devoted family in the Baptist African and Haytien Mission book, published by the Massachusetts Sabbath School Union. The ship that took out Mr. and Mrs. Skinner, carried *eight* of the ransomed children and grand children of Prince Abduhl Rahhahman.

*Charles.* How many died, besides Dr. Humphries and Mr. Skinner's family?

*Caroline.* Fifteen or sixteen; but almost every one of those who died, had lived in a mountainous country before they left the United States.

*Janette.* How many of those died who went out in the Volador?

*Caroline.* One of the United States' ships has recently arrived, and brought letters from Dr. Mechlin, and Dr. Todsén. At the time she left Liberia, there had not been a single death among those who went out in that ship. They

stated in their letters, that the general health of the colony was good, and the improving and prosperous condition of the settlement was very encouraging. As a proof of this, they publish a weekly newspaper called the 'Liberia Herald,' which is edited by Mr. J. B. Russworm, a colored man who received his education at Bowdoin college, in Maine.

*Charles.* Did he go out to publish a newspaper?

*Caroline.* The principal object he had in view when he left America, was to superintend the system of education at the colony; an office for which he was well qualified. Dr. Mechlin speaks of him in the highest terms, and he has had a good opportunity for becoming well acquainted with his worth, having occupied the agency house with him ever since his arrival.

Mr. Russworm left a colored friend of his preparing for missionary labors, in Africa,—and in a letter to him he says, "What my sensations were upon landing I can hardly describe. Monrovia contains double the number of houses I expected, and I am informed that Millsburg and Caldwell contain nearly as many. You here behold colored men exercising all the duties of offices of which you can scarcely believe. Many fulfil the impor-

tant duties with much dignity. We have here a republic in miniature.

There is a great field for usefulness here ; and when I look around and behold the pagan darkness of the land, an aspiration rises to heaven that my friend may become a second Brainerd or Eliot. I long for the time when you, my dear friend, shall land on these shores, a messenger of that gospel, which proclaims liberty to the captives, and light to those who sit in great darkness. I long to see young men, who are now wasting their days in the United States, flocking to this land as the last asylum of the unfortunate."

Mr. Russworm edited a paper in New York before he went to Liberia, entitled 'Freedom's Journal ;' for several years he was heartily opposed to the plan of colonizing, but after making himself acquainted with all the Colonization Society had accomplished, and all its designs, his views entirely changed, and he became one of its most firm and zealous supporters.

On one occasion he said to some of his colored friends, "I consider it a mere waste of words to talk of enjoying citizenship in the United States ; it is utterly impossible in the nature of things ; all, therefore, who pant for this, must cast their eyes elsewhere. The interesting query now arises, where shall we

find this desirable spot? If we look to Europe, we find that quarter already overburdened with a starving population; if to Asia, its distance is an insuperable barrier, were all other circumstances favorable. Where then shall we look so naturally, as to Africa?"

*Charles.* I think he must have been a sensible man.

*Caroline.* He was so; and a man who had received a college education. If all our colored population were to obtain learning, they would never remain in the United States in such a debased condition, but would line our shores, till they were taken, and conveyed to the *natural home of the African* where, upon the land of their ancestors, they might breathe the air of liberty, and live respected and honored by all nations.

*Clara.* Have none of Prince Abduhl's relatives ever been heard from?

*Caroline.* Yes. He wrote to them immediately after he arrived at Liberia, and it was currently reported that soon after his death, some of them forwarded six or seven thousand dollars worth of gold dust to Boporo, where they heard of his death and returned home directly.

Mr. Russworm says Prince left a great many writings, some of which were read by

a man who came to the colony from Teembo. Mrs. Prince was present and observed the man wept,—he was very urgent to have her go immediately to Teembo. He said she could reach that place in eight days, if she travelled through the woods, or in ten, if she coasted along the shore. There is no doubt but he belonged to the reigning family, at the time he was taken prisoner, and made a slave—and it is said his nephew is now the reigning sovereign of his native country.

*Janette.* It seems they have to pass through Boatswain's country, on their way to it, over land.

*Caroline.* Yes ; but he is friendly to the colony. Mr. Russworm calls him "the Napoleon of these wilds."

*Charles.* Are his people more civilized than other tribes ?

*Caroline.* Yes, a little. The men wear pantaloons, and a cloth tastefully folded around the waist.

*Janette.* Are there any schools opened for the education of young people of color who are pious, and wish to go to Liberia to do good ?

*Caroline.* Yes, there is one at the city of Washington, supported by the "African Education Society of the United States." I do

not know that females are received into this school, however. There is another at Hartford, Connecticut, and another in Parsippany, New Jersey ; but none of them receive that patronage, that the importance of the subject demands.

The Polish general, Kosciusko, bequeathed over twenty thousand dollars, and left it in the hands of the late President Jefferson, for the purpose of purchasing and educating female slaves. I am not able to tell you whether it has been appropriated to that object yet, but I presume it will be, if it has not in some way which would have met the views of the benevolent donor. I sincerely hope some plan will speedily be laid, which shall secure to the colony, preachers and teachers of color, equal to the demands of the population ; persons of deep piety, and sound learning.

*Janette.* Aunt Caroline, when will you read the circular you promised ?

*Caroline.* Now. (*Reads.*) "The first consideration which caused our voluntary removal to this country, and the object which we still regard with the deepest concern, is liberty—liberty, in the sober, simple, but complete sense of the word : not a licentious liberty, nor a liberty without government, or which should place us without the restraints

of salutary laws—but that liberty of speech, action, and conscience, which distinguishes the free enfranchised citizens of a free state. We did not enjoy that freedom in our native country; and from causes which as respects ourselves, we shall soon forget forever, we were certain it was not there attainable for ourselves, or our children. This, then, being the first object of our pursuit in coming to Africa, is probably the first object on which you will ask for information. And we must truly declare to you, that our expectations, and hopes, in this respect, have been realized. Our constitution secures to us, so far as our condition allows, “all the rights and privileges enjoyed by the citizens of the United States,”—and these rights and privileges are ours. We are the proprietors of the soil we live on, and possess the rights of freeholders. Our suffrages, and, what is of more importance, our sentiments and our opinions have their due weight in the government we live under. Our laws are altogether our own: they grow out of our circumstances, are framed for our exclusive benefit, and administered either by officers of our own appointment, or such as possess our confidence. We have a judiciary, chosen from among ourselves; we serve as jurors in the trial of others; and are liable to be tried only by

juries of our fellow citizens, ourselves. We have all that is meant by *liberty of conscience*. The time and mode of worshipping God, as prescribed to us in his word, and dictated by our conscience, we are not only free to follow, but are protected in following.

“Forming a community of our own, in the land of our fore-fathers,—having the commerce, and soil, and resources, of the country at our disposal; we know nothing of that debasing inferiority with which our very color is stamped in America. There is nothing here to create the feeling on our part—nothing to cherish the feeling of superiority in the minds of foreigners who visit us. It is this moral emancipation—this liberation of the mind from worse than iron fetters—that repays us ten thousand times over, for all that it has cost us, and makes us grateful to God and our American patrons, for the happy change which has taken place in our situation. We are not so self-complacent as to rest satisfied with our improvement, either as regards our minds or our circumstances. We do not expect to remain stationary. Far from it. But we certainly feel ourselves, for the first time, in a state to improve either to any purpose. The burthen has gone from our shoulders: we now breathe and move freely, and

know not (in surveying your present state) for which to pity you most—the empty name of liberty, which you endeavor to content yourselves with, in a country that is not yours, or the delusion which makes you hope for ampler privileges in that country hereafter. Tell us, which is the white man, who, with a prudent regard to his own character, can associate with one of you, on terms of equality? Ask *us*, which is the white man who would decline such association with one of our number, whose intellectual and moral qualities are not an objection? To both these questions we unhesitatingly make the same answer:—There is no such white man.

“We solicit none of you to emigrate to this country: for we know not who among you prefers national independence, and the honest respect of his fellow men, to that mental sloth and careless poverty which you already possess, and your children will inherit after you, in America. But if your views and aspirations rise a degree higher—if your minds are not as servile as your present condition—we can decide the question at once; and with confidence say, that you will bless the day, and your children after you, when you determine to become citizens of Liberia.

“But we do not hold this language on the

blessings of liberty for the purpose of consoling ourselves for the sacrifice of health, or the suffering of want, in consequence of our removal to Africa. We enjoy health, after a few months in the country, as uniformly, and in as perfect a degree as we possessed that blessing in our native country. The true character of the African climate is not well understood in other countries. Its inhabitants are as robust, as healthy, as long lived, to say the least, as those of any other country. But the change from a temperate to a tropical country is a great one—too great not to affect the health, more or less—and, in the cases of old people, and young children, it often causes death.

“ People now arriving, have comfortable houses to receive them ; will enjoy the regular attendance of a physician in the slight sickness that may await them ; will be surrounded by healthy, and happy people, who have borne the effects of the climate, who will encourage and fortify them against that despondency which, alone, has carried off several in the first years of the colony.

“ A more fertile soil, and a more productive country, so far as it is cultivated, there is not, we believe, on the face of the earth. Even the natives of the country, almost without

farming tools, without skill, and with very little labor, make more grain and vegetables than they can consume, and often more than they can sell.

“Cattle, swine, fowls, ducks, goats, and sheep, thrive without feeding, and require no other care than to keep them from straying. Cotton, coffee, indigo, and the sugar-cane are all the spontaneous growth of our forests, and may be cultivated to any extent by such as are disposed.

“The same may be said of millet, and too many fruits and vegetables to be enumerated. Nature is here constantly renewing herself, and constantly pouring her treasures into the laps of the industrious.

“We could say, on this subject, more, but we are afraid of exciting, too highly, the hopes of the imprudent. Such persons, we think, will do well to keep their rented cellars, and earn their twenty-five cents a-day at the wheel-barrow, in the commercial towns of America, and stay where they are. It is only the industrious and virtuous that we can point to independence, and plenty, and happiness in this country. Such persons are nearly sure, to obtain in a few years, to a style of comfortable living, which they may in vain hope for in the United States.

“Mechanics, of nearly every trade, are carrying on their various occupations; their wages are high, and a large number would be sure of constant and profitable employment. Not a child or youth in the colony, but is provided with an appropriate school. We have a numerous public library, and a court house, meeting houses, school houses, and fortifications sufficient, or nearly so, for the colony in its present state.

“Our houses are constructed of the same materials, and finished in the same style, as houses in America. We have abundance of good building stone, shells for lime, and clay, of an excellent quality for bricks. Timber is plentiful, of various kinds, and fit for all the different purposes of building and fencing.

“Truly we have a goodly heritage; and if there is anything lacking in the character or condition of the people of this colony, it can never be charged to the account of the country; it must be the fruit of our own mismanagement, or slothfulness, or vices. But from these evils we confide in Him, to whom we are indebted for all our blessings, to preserve us. It is the topic of our weekly and daily thanksgiving to Almighty God, both in public and private; and He knows with how much sincerity, that we were ever conducted, by his

providence, to this shore. Such great favors, in so short a time, and mixed with so few trials, are to be ascribed to nothing but his special blessing. This we acknowledge. We only want the gratitude which such signal favors call for.

“Nor are we willing to close this paper without adding a heartfelt testimonial of the deep obligations we owe to our American patrons and best earthly benefactors, whose wisdom pointed to this home of our nation, and whose active and persevering benevolence enabled us to reach it.”

*Charles.* Aunt Caroline, do you believe black men ever wrote that paper? Why it reads as well as if a lawyer had written it; I don't believe Pa' could have done better.

*Caroline.* Yes, Charles; there was a meeting of black men in Monrovia, who united in voting to send an address to the people of their own color in America, and they appointed the Rev. C. M. Waring, Capt. Barbour, F. Devany, W. J. Weaver, Esquires, and the Rev. Mr. McGill, to prepare the address which I just read to you. Colored people are as capable, polite, and intelligent, when educated, as white persons, and you see from this circular what rapid advancement has

already been made in learning and the arts of life. Some of these men have been engaged in trade, and are worth from five to twenty thousand dollars. Mr. Devany is the high sheriff, and is highly respected.

*Charles.* Were I a colored boy, I would work my fingers to the bone to get money enough to pay my passage to Liberia, where I would study and work till I became a sheriff, a minister, or a squire.

*Janette.* I wonder the black girls will stay here, when they can go to such a good place, and be as much thought of as any white lady whatever.

*Caroline.* I have often been astonished to hear the silly excuses they have made when I have urged their going. But too many of them have so long been inured to servitude and debasement, that they have lost all self-respect and confidence in themselves.

*Janette.* If they could read this circular, written by their own countrymen, I think they would go by thousands, and leave the old shabby houses and cellars in the cities vacant—and the old barren pine plains in the country, to be cultivated by white men.

I know some colored girls; and if they will go to Liberia, I will give them as many of my clothes as my mother will allow; and save

all my pocket-money to pay their passage. How much will it take?

*Caroline.* From twenty to twenty-five dollars. You may talk the subject over among the Sabbath scholars, to-morrow, and then they will be prepared for the address on the fourth of July, which comes on Tuesday next.

*Charles.* I think we boys will do something, at least as much—and I think we shall do more than the girls. If they raise coffee at Liberia, aunt Caroline, might not some borrow money to carry them out, and pay in coffee and rice after they get settled?

*Caroline.* They would have a great deal to do after they reached Africa; too much to be able to spend time to raise coffee, which they can buy of the natives for five cents a pound, and rice for a dollar a bushel.

*Charles.* How cheap! people might better afford to work cheap *there* than *here*. Do you know what wages are received by the emigrants?

*Caroline.* Mechanics get from one to two dollars a day, while native laborers get only five or six dollars a month.

*Charles.* If other things are cheap in proportion to coffee and rice, mechanics may soon get money before-hand.

*Caroline.* If they are prudent, they can—for other things are plenty and cheap. A little way in the country good cattle may be bought from three to six dollars a head, and palm oil, which is used in cooking, as we use butter and lard, for twenty-five cents a gallon; and a gallon of palm oil is equal to six pounds of butter.

Here Miss Caroline began to put her work in the basket, and Clara laying her hand upon it, said, ‘aunt Caroline, do not leave off talking, do tell us about Sierra Leone; did you not promise us that you would?’

*Caroline.* Yes, my dear, I did so; but you know I deferred that subject for the sake of telling you about Liberia. ‘I knew it,’ said Clara, ‘and I do wrong to trouble you.’

*Caroline.* You have not troubled me. I am always happy to communicate useful information.

## CHAPTER IX.

Say, shall not Afric's fated land,  
With news of peace be blest ?  
Say, shall not Ethiopia's band  
Enjoy the promised rest ?

'O PA', do you know what a good place Liberia is ?' said Charles, as he ran to meet his father when he came home to tea. 'They have plenty of coffee for five cents a pound, and rice for a dollar a bushel.'

*Mr. G.* I know it, my son, and think it a great pity that all our colored population cannot be removed to that goodly land.

*Janette.* Why may they not be removed, father ?

*Mr. G.* It would take a great deal of money to remove them, if they were all at liberty, and wished to go ; besides they ought to be prepared for a removal, by first acquiring some knowledge of letters, and of some mechanical trade. It is thought by many, that a manual labor school at the south, would be an excellent place to train up those lads designed to settle at Liberia.

*Charles.* Would slave owners approve of one ?

*Mr. G.* I presume so. Multitudes of respectable proprietors of slaves, as heartily wish the country rid of them, as I do.

*Charles.* Then why do they not let them go free ?

*Mr. G.* Because, they are men of benevolence and humanity. What, think you, would become of the poor slaves, if their masters all over the country should say to them, Go your way, to-morrow you must leave my plantation, and take care of yourselves ? Why Charles, I do not think a master could do a more cruel thing ; a father might as well say to his children under fourteen, you must leave me to-morrow. Indeed, the children would not be so likely to suffer, as the slaves. A gentleman from the west not long since told me he met a company of slaves, or rather free colored persons, who had recently been emancipated, by a well meaning but an injudicious owner, and a more miserable company of human beings he had never seen ; nobody wished to hire, or harbor them. They were destitute of home or friends, and knew not what to do, or where to go. Hundreds, if not thousands, have been offered to the managers of the Colonization Society, on condi-

tion they would remove them to Africa—and funds alone are wanting, to send away thousands every year.

*Charles.* I never thought of the condition of slaves in this country, in case they had their freedom. I thought every body blamed the southern people for keeping slaves.

*Mr. G.* They have been censured often times most unjustly. Before the revolution, Virginia would most gladly have prevented the admission of a single slave into her State. I have seen a remonstrance addressed to the king of England by the house of Burgesses in that State, praying him to enact laws which should check, or wholly prevent the diabolical traffic in human beings; and that State has always been prompt in her measures to suppress this enormity. And when her efforts failed to root out the evil, she has exerted herself to mitigate it. Twenty-one of the States have expressed their approbation of the Colonization Society, and have recommended its object to the patronage of the national government. Among these States are Georgia, Kentucky, Virginia, Maryland, and some other slave holding States, as well as the eastern. The whole community is daily becoming more and more acquainted with the evils attendant on slavery, and are

uniting their strength and wisdom to banish it from the world. There is not that difference of sentiment between slave owners and other men, when they sit down to discuss the subject in a calm, dispassionate way, that has generally been supposed. Slavery must come to an end gradually, in the United States, and if the system of colonizing could go on as rapidly as it might with safety, there would not be a slave in the Union at the end of fifty years.

*Charles.* Why father, how could that be ; how many are there in the country now ?

*Mr. G.* Nearly two millions and a half.

*Charles.* How large is the number of free blacks ?

*Mr. G.* Three hundred thousand, and the annual increase is seven or eight thousand.

*Janette.* And how many of them are now at Liberia ?

*Mr. G.* Not far from two thousand.

*Charles.* If the Colonization Society have been ten years removing two thousand, how many times fifty years, Pa', will it take to remove two millions and a half ?

*Mr. G.* The Colonization Society never expected to accomplish this Herculean task unaided by the state and national governments. That Society has embarked in a great

enterprize, and with the blessing of God has achieved wonders, considering the obstacles it has had to encounter, and the scantiness of the funds it has been able to raise.

*Charles.* How large is their annual income ?

*Mr. G.* It has varied ;—but a few years past, it has been gaining rapidly. In 1830, it was twenty-eight thousand dollars ; the year before, twenty thousand ; and a few years ago, only four thousand. A plan was laid, some years since, by Mr. Gerrit Smith of Peterboro', New York, for raising one hundred thousand dollars in ten years, each subscriber pledging himself to pay annually, one hundred dollars for ten years.

*Charles.* How many subscribers has Mr. Smith obtained ?

*Mr. G.* About thirty.

*Janette.* Have any ladies subscribed ?

*Mr. G.* Yes, two ; Mrs. Carrington, and Mrs. Fountain. The ladies have recently become quite engaged for the Colonization Society. A Juvenile Society was formed some time since at Middletown, in Connecticut, and the little girls there have done themselves great credit by their efforts for the poor Africans.

*Caroline.* Not long since, the ladies of

Baltimore held a *Fair*, at which they received two thousand five hundred dollars, and paid it over to the Colonization Society—and the ladies at Charlottesville had one at which they received five hundred dollars, and paid it over to the same Society. A Society has been formed among the females at Fredericksburg; and another at Falmouth, which is auxiliary to the Parent Society; within fifteen months the last named Society has paid into the treasury five hundred dollars—and a society of young ladies in Hartford, Connecticut, purchased a library for the girls' school, at Monrovia, which contained one hundred volumes.

*Charles.* Do you know of any little boys' society, to aid the emigrants?

*Caroline.* I do not now recollect any except the Juvenile Debating Society, in Virginia; they send all the funds they can secure, to the Society. O yes, I can think of one more at Brooklyn, New York, and another at Georgetown, and one at Cincinnati,—the two last are composed of males and females. At the time the synod of Virginia recommended the building of a Presbyterian chapel at Liberia, a subscription was opened upon the spot, and one hundred and sixty dollars collected in money and jewels. A

little orphan girl, of five years old, after hearing a conversation on the subject, went and brought out her little money-box, which contained only six cents, and as she poured them out to give to the object, she said, 'This is all the money I have got,' grieved that she could not give more.

*Mr. G.* If all the children in the United States would give six cents each, we should be able to send thousands to Africa this year.

*Charles.* Where should we get ships to carry them?

*Mr. G.* A subscription has been opened to raise twenty thousand dollars to purchase a ship for the Society to transport her colonists, and a considerable part of it has been realized. When Congress takes up the subject, and the superintendents, teachers and scholars in the Sabbath schools feel as they ought for the oppressed and degraded people of color—ships and captains, provisions, tools, clothes, medicines, books and furniture will flow in from all quarters, as well as money. Generous, benevolent and pious slave owners will bring them forward as emigrants, and Liberia will increase her population even faster than Lowell, in this region.

*Charles.* But how can Africa hold all our colored people?

*Mr. G.* If Africa could be civilized, and Christianized, her agriculture and commerce would sustain an immense population. You know there is Hayti, Madagascar, and other islands where the African's complexion will not subject him to neglect.

*Charles.* How much money, Pa', will it take to remove all that would like to go the present year ?

*Mr. G.* I cannot tell ; but I suppose one hundred and fifty thousand dollars would remove the annual increase of *free blacks*—and nearly one million of dollars to remove the annual increase of the whole slave population. But who would be unwilling to have our government make such appropriations ?

*Caroline.* Surely not any one who loves his God, or his country.

*Mr. G.* When I look at the resources of the nation, and look at her paltry debt, and revenue of from fifteen to twenty millions, it dwindles to an atom in comparison of the great and glorious object to be attained by the expenditure.

*Caroline.* Do you not believe that commerce in the productions of Africa would enrich the American nation more than slaves ?

*Mr. G.* It would if the slave trade could be annihilated ; but so long as the African

chieftains and traders, can find purchasers, they will sell slaves.

*Charles.* Cannot the slave trade be put down?

*Mr. G.* Yes, it might, if a few light armed vessels were stationed on the coast, to be relieved occasionally by others—and by the influence of Christian colonies on the coast, and missionary stations in the country. These combined, would doubtless banish slave buyers and sellers.

*Caroline.* Do you suppose Americans have been engaged in it since the law made it piracy?

*Mr. G.* Yes; until 1820 a great part of the trade was covered by the American flag, and much of it owned by American citizens, and to this day it is believed that many Americans are directly or remotely engaged in this abominable trade. Since 1820, slave ships of every nation usually hoist the French flag.

*Janette.* How many slaves are carried off in a year?

*Mr. G.* In 1821, not less than two hundred thousand slaves were carried from the coast of Africa in ships under the colors of France.

*Charles.* What part has England acted?

*Mr. G.* The English parliament abolished slavery in 1807, but the penalties have not been sufficient to deter unprincipled men from engaging in it as deeply as ever.

*Charles.* What further has been done to check it in that country?

*Mr. G.* Parliament 'enacted that every person residing within the British dominions, who should in any wise be concerned in the slave trade, should be deemed a felon, and might be punished by transportation not exceeding fourteen years,' and thus the English law now stands. If I had time, I would tell you what a series of efforts have been made by British Christians to abolish this wicked traffic within the last fifty years.

*Charles.* Do stop long enough to relate part of them, Pa'.

*Mr. G.* So long ago as the times of the Rev. Richard Baxter, and George Fox, the venerable founder of the Quaker sect, England has been forward in all plans to check and abolish this dreadful traffic.

*Caroline.* I have often heard Mr. Benezet alluded to, but I never heard anything more of him than that he was a quaker and a friend of the Africans.

*Mr. G.* You ought to know more of him, and I will tell you a little of his history. He

was born at St. Quintin, in Picardy, in the year 1713. His father was a protestant, who fled to Holland in the great persecution that followed the revocation of the edict of Nantz. From Holland he went to England, and settled in London, when Anthony was two years old. Having received a liberal education, Anthony engaged in mercantile business, and in 1731, he removed to America, and settled at Philadelphia. He early became zealously devoted to the cause of Africa, and with an excellent spirit, wrote several tracts, and articles for almanacs, in which he first questioned the lawfulness of slavery. From small things, he proceeded to greater, till he had published three or four books of considerable size, all connected with Africa, and the slave trade. He wrote a letter to Elizabeth, queen of England, which was well received,—and another to the countess of Huntingdon. In short, if I should tell you all his good deeds that came to light years ago, it would take me all night. Dr. Rush believed that he accomplished more for the deliverance of Africa than any other man ; but I do not like to hear one man loaded with praises that equally belongs to a dozen others engaged with him in the same exertions. Perhaps Dr. Franklin, Judge Sewall, Dr. Thornton, Dr. Rush, and

Dr. Finley, and twenty other American worthies, felt as much for the wrongs of Africa, as the excellent Anthony Benezet. England produced a host of advocates for the oppressed slaves, among them, the names of Whitfield, Wesley, Wilberforce, Fox and Pitt, Granville Sharp, and the Clarksons, will never be forgotten so long as the continent of Africa endures. I will notice Mr. Granville Sharp, particularly.

*Charles.* Who was he, Pa'?

*Mr. G.* An English gentleman, of easy fortune, and unbounded benevolence, whose mind was led to reflect upon the hard case of the poor slaves, from the moment his brother William Sharp, who was a surgeon, introduced to his notice a slave named *Jonathan Strong*, whom he was laboring to cure.

*Janette.* Where did the surgeon find this slave?

*Mr. G.* Before I tell you, I must go back to the year 1700, at which time several of the West India planters having amassed fortunes, returned to England, bringing with them slaves to act as servants. When these poor creatures saw the freedom and happiness of English servants, and thought of all they had suffered, and should continue to suffer when they went back, they often ran away. The

friends of the slave trade pretended that the laws would not protect these runaways.

It was asserted by some, indeed by a great many, that baptism made all free, who submitted to the ordinance. In consequence of the last assertion, poor slaves flocked to the ministers for baptism, and whenever they procured god-fathers, the rite was performed. Those who ran away, were pursued, and usually seized by those who claimed them as their property. The slaves sent for their sponsors to protect and defend them; and for a time the god-fathers (who were always opposers to slavery) would dare the masters to carry them out of the kingdom.

In these circumstances, the merchants and planters knew not what to do. They knew that public opinion would not suffer them to carry off a slave by force, and they feared to bring any one of the cases before a public court. At length, in 1729, they applied to the attorney and solicitor generals, who gave in the opinion that masters might legally compel their slaves to go back to their plantations; that coming to England, or being baptised, did not in the least affect their freedom. These opinions were made as public as possible, and in a little time numerous slaves were advertised in the London newspapers just as

they are in the slave States in America. The auctioneers also advertised them with oxen, horses, and carriages.

*Janette.* I have seen such advertisements in southern newspapers, a hundred times.

*Mr. G.* These things hastened the restoration of the slave trade to its wonted vigor, for it had somewhat declined for a little while. In a few years it was openly espoused, and entered into by large numbers with the greatest zeal imaginable. While this shameful trade seemed in the height of prosperity, a Mr. Lisle came over from Barbadoes, and brought with him the slave I alluded to.

*Clara.* Jonathan Strong, Pa'?

*Mr. G.* Yes. Lisle took lodgings at Wapping, where he treated this poor African in the most cruel and barbarous manner. On one occasion, he beat him over the head with a large pistol, till his head swelled in the most alarming degree. When the swelling abated, disease fell into his eyes, no doubt in consequence of the blows, and he became blind; an ague and fever followed, which brought on a lameness in both his legs.

In these deplorable circumstances, utterly useless, the infamous Lisle deserted him. The poor creature hearing of the kind and charitable disposition of Mr. Sharp the sur-

geon, contrived to apply to him for advice. Mr. Granville Sharp met him at his brother's, and was touched with feelings of compassion for Jonathan, and indignation towards the cruel Lisle. While his brother was performing a cure, Mr. G. Sharp supported the poor slave, and when he was well, he procured him a good situation with an apothecary, who employed him to carry out medicines. When Jonathan had become robust and healthy, Lisle discovered, and claimed him as his slave, or rather he decoyed him to a public house, seized him, and sold him to a man for thirty pounds. Strong sent for his god-fathers, but they could not rescue him; he then sent for Mr. Granville Sharp, who immediately came, and after going through a long process, got him discharged. But no sooner was he at liberty, than a Captain L—— laid his hand upon Strong, saying, aloud, "Then I seize him as my slave." Mr. Sharp was within hearing, and putting his hand on the captain's shoulder, said in an authoritative voice, "I charge you in the name of the king, with an assault upon the person of Jonathan Strong, and all these are my witnesses."—These words so intimidated the captain, that he let go his prisoner, and Mr. Sharp took poor Jonathan home with him. Mr. Sharp

foresaw much difficulty, and resolved to ascertain the full meaning of the English law, with regard to slaves. He applied to judge Blackstone, but not getting satisfaction, he resolved to sit down and study the English laws for himself. He therefore gave up two or three years to this object, and then wrote a book entitled, "A Representation of the Injustice and dangerous Tendency of Tolerating Slavery in England." By this time, his heart became so deeply interested for the poor oppressed Africans, that he gave himself up almost entirely to lay plans for their benefit. In 1768, another case offered, which he wished to have tried. Hylas, a slave, prosecuted a man for stealing his wife, and sending her to the West Indies.

*Janette.* Cruel wretch! did they not hang him, Pa'?

*Mr. G.* No—he was fined one shilling, and ordered to bring back Hylas's wife, in the next ship. Two years afterwards, another case came out. Five men seized upon Thomas Lewis, a slave, one dark night, and dragged him on board a boat, and then tied him, putting a gag in his mouth to prevent his calling for help, and rowed him to a ship, put him on board to go to Jamaica, to be sold to the planters.

*Charles.* Was not he kidnapped, Pa'?

*Mr. G.* Yes, as much so as if he had been stolen in Africa.

This infamous affair happened close by the garden of Sir Joseph Banks' mother. When Lewis was first caught, he screamed violently, and the servants of Mrs. Banks ran to his help, but alas, too late, for the boat had shoved off. As soon as their mistress heard of it, she sent for Mr. Granville Sharp, who began to be well known as the friend of the friendless slave. He took out a writ, the oppressors were defeated in this and several other cases which soon followed. But Mr. Sharp felt anxious to have a case tried upon the broad ground, "Whether an African slave, coming into England, became free?"

*Charles.* Did such a case occur, Pa'.

*Mr. G.* Yes; in 1769, a Mr. Stewart brought his slave, Somerset, to England, who left his master soon afterwards. Somerset was seized, and conveyed on board a ship to be sent to Jamaica, and sold for a slave. When the trial of this case came on, the question was, "Whether a slave, by coming into England, became free?" This case was argued, at the different sittings of the court, and the glorious result of the trial, was, "That as soon as any slave set his foot upon English

territory, he became free." This case was decided, after the most deliberate discussions, and while the constitution of England remains, can never be reversed. After this victory, Mr. Sharp wrote to Lord North, then minister of state, urging him to exert all his influence for the abolition of slavery and the slave trade, as they were equally irreconcilable with the principles of the gospel, and the constitution of England.

I could spend hours in detailing facts connected with the life and labors of this great and good man, but what I have said must suffice for the present.

*Janette.* Pa', do you not think slaves were worse used in England, than they ever have been in the United States?

*Mr. G.* That is a difficult question to answer. Slavery is an evil, the extent of which, those who have never shared or witnessed its horrors, have but the faintest conceptions. However, I make no doubt but slaves, both in England and America, fared ten thousand times better than the poor wretches in the West India Islands. I have heard it remarked by some one, that there was not more difference between the American farmer and an Irish peasant, than between an American slave and one in the West Indies.

*Caroline.* I am astonished that Congress did not banish it from the land when the federal constitution was framed.

*Mr. G.* You know slavery existed in this country long before the war of the revolution, and at the time of framing our constitution, the habits and means of carrying on industry in many sections of the country could not suddenly be changed ; therefore the constitution yielded to the provision, that the "migration or importation of such persons as any of the States thought proper to admit, should not be forbidden by Congress until 1808 ;" a period of twenty years. Congress had legislated upon the subject long before the constitution was adopted, and endeavored to suppress the hated traffic by a system of rigorous penalties.

*Caroline.* What kind of punishments were resorted to ?

*Mr. G.* Forfeitures of vessels, long imprisonments, and heavy fines ; and yet the whole catalogue of punishments would not avail to stop the unnatural trade ; and even the law as it now stands, which brands every citizen engaged in this trade a pirate, and makes his punishment *death*, has not put a final stop to this disgraceful business.

*Caroline.* Were slave owners disposed to im-

prove the condition of their slaves, how could it be done safely? for if they were educated they could not be kept under such strict subordination as they now are; and if it be true that knowledge is power, the moment they are enlightened, they would be likely to exert it.

*Mr. G.* I think if I had slaves, I would endeavor to prepare them for gradual emancipation. I certainly would provide for their moral and religious instruction; and should not fear to train them up to read, write, and cipher, which would qualify them for freemen; and then I would offer them to the Colonization Society, two or three at a time, and when they understood that I was actuated by a desire to secure their interest and happiness, I believe while they remained in my service they would be far more faithful and industrious than the uninstructed slaves of my neighbors. If my efforts to bring them to a saving knowledge of Christ was owned and blessed of God, I should be certain they would be diligent, faithful, and contented, for if any thing under heaven will reconcile men to inequalities, it is the religion of Christ.

*Caroline.* I have heard people say, in excuse for their slaves living and dying in ignorance, that if they are taught, they will see the injustice of slavery, and feel their degra-

dation; and when they read of successful resistances of oppression, a like spirit will be awakened in them, till *freedom or death* would become the watch-word, from one end of the slave holding States to the other. I always felt thankful that not one of my relations ever bought or sold a slave, or acquired any of their property by the labor of slaves.

*Mr. G.* I esteem it a mercy that I have never been in circumstances of temptation to engage in this guilty commerce. If I had, I do not know how soon my scruples would have vanished. I remember the story of Hazael, who said, "Is thy servant a dog, that he should do this thing?"

*Charles.* Pa', from what parts of Africa do you suppose those two hundred thousand slaves were taken, that were carried off under the French flag in 1821?

*Mr. G.* It is probable that a great part of them went from the rivers Calabar and Bonny. Vast numbers have been sent from those places. The Galinas and the Rio Pongas are almost as famous for their slave merchants, as those rivers. I think you may find all those places on the map of Liberia. Did you ever hear about the *massacre* at Calabar?

*Children.* No, Sir, never.

*Mr. G.* In 1767, six English ships lay in

the river Calabar. At the time, a quarrel subsisted between the principal persons of two adjoining villages, called New Town and Old Town.

*Janette.* What occasioned the quarrel?

*Mr. G.* It had its origin in mutual jealousies respecting slave dealing. The captains of these six slave ships sent letters to the chiefs of Old Town, offering to act as mediators, and bring about a peace.

The people of Old Town, pleased with the thought of peace, joyfully accepted the invitation of the captains to go on board their ships, to be defended and protected till the treaty should be ratified. By this means, those wicked men allured the *grandee*, his three brothers, nearly thirty of his attendants, and nine large canoes, filled with the highest of his subjects, on board their ship, called the *Indian Queen*. The next morning they were sent to the *Edgar*, the name of another vessel, and afterwards to the ship *Duke of York*, where they were received with much attention. The *grandee* and his brothers went down into the cabin, and the rest of his people remained on the deck, and in the canoes along side. In the most sudden and unexpected manner, the officers and crew, armed with cutlasses and pistols, rushed into the cabin, which greatly

alarmed their unsuspecting guests, who immediately attempted to escape through the cabin windows, but the blows and wounds they received, compelled them to submit to be put in irons. While this scene was passing in the cabin, the people in the canoes were fired upon, a few of the attendants seized, many others killed or drowned, and the canoes sunk. The infamous example of the Duke of York was followed by all the other ships, which had allured the greatest part of the people of Old Town to come out to their vessels, upon the same plausible errand. Three hundred of the inhabitants of that ill-fated town perished.

*Caroline.* What could have instigated them to such savage deeds?

*Mr. G.* You shall hear. This cruel scene had hardly passed, when a canoe filled with the principal personages of the other village, (who had concerted this wicked plot with the English captain,) came along side of the Duke of York, and demanded the eldest brother of the grandee of Old Town. The poor man besought the cruel captain upon his knees to save his life, and not deliver him into the hands of his enemy. But in vain; the captain exchanged this nobleman for a slave named Econg, and then let him down into a canoe, where his head was struck off in sight

of his weeping brothers, and of the whole ship's crew.

*Children.* O dear ! what became of the grandee, and his youngest brother, and the rest of his friends ?

*Mr. G.* They were all carried to the West Indies and sold for slaves.

*Janette.* Are all slave captains cruel ?

*Mr. G.* If I should tell you some of their cruelties which I have read of, I hardly think you would go to sleep to-night.

*Charles.* Pa', I had rather lay awake than not hear them.

*Mr. G.* The captain of the slave ship Alfred, treated one of his sailors so cruelly, that the young man said he often longed to die, and more than once threw himself overboard to escape the torments they inflicted upon him. The last time they took him out of the water, they chained him to the deck of the ship, night and day, till he was nearly exhausted. However, he returned to Bristol, in England, from which port he had sailed, and there Mr. Clarkson found him in the most miserable condition you can imagine. He was confined to his bed, delirious, crying out to all the bystanders to pity and befriend him, and then he would inquire if they meant to take the captain's part, and intended to aid in killing him.

His limbs were in the most ulcerated state, and his sufferings so great that he died in about a week after Mr. Clarkson's visit, as was believed solely in consequence of the abusive treatment of the captain and his officers.

*Charles.* Did he treat any other of his crew as bad?

*Mr. G.* Another sailor, named Dixon, had his under lip cut in two by a blow from the same captain, and Pyke, another, had his arm broken by the first mate, while receiving a most cruel flogging, and another poor fellow died from blows given him with a knotted rope by the captain.

*Charles.* Were these sailors more wicked than the others?

*Mr. G.* No; they were men of as good moral character as the generality of seamen.

*Charles.* Did such captains and mates steer clear of the law?

*Mr. G.* This vile captain and his mate had once been tried for murder in the island of Barbadoes, and only escaped by bribing the principal witness to disappear.

*Janette.* Pa', why will sailors go out in slave ships? they must know that such captains are very wicked and cruel men.

*Mr. G.* A great many of them are de-

ceived, and do not suspect they are going after slaves, and the rest are induced to go from the promise of enormous wages, which they seldom ever receive, if they live to return; but thousands of them never do return.

*Janette.* Do they die in Africa?

*Mr. G.* A large number die there, and on the passage; and many are left at the islands where the slaves are carried to be sold. There they suffer every thing but death, before they ever see their home again; one fifth of the sailors engaged in this traffic, perish every year.

*Caroline.* Why are not such captains prosecuted?

*Mr. G.* The slave trade is carried on so extensively, and those engaged in it have so many methods to escape detection and punishment, that it is next to impossible to bring them to a trial. Sailors only can be witnesses, and the merchants and slave dealers generally contrive to decoy them away the moment they discover any measures in train to bring them to justice; in short, look at this horrid trade in whatever light you please, it is a series of crime and iniquity from beginning to end. I question if there is a slave captain to be found, who has not been guilty of such atrocious

wickedness, that he would shudder to have his life investigated before any earthly tribunal.

*Caroline.* Then how will they endure the scrutiny of their final judge?

*Mr. G.* That is a question, I fear they seldom propose to themselves.

*Caroline.* Do you not think such enormities are more rare nowadays than formerly?

*Mr. G.* I suppose that the same bloody tragedies are acted over every year, wherever this inhuman traffic is carried on, as frequently as in former days.

*Charles.* Father, have you told us all the cruel slave stories that you have ever heard?

*Mr. G.* No, my son; I could not relate them all in a week.

*Janette.* Then do tell us more, and I will make the girls in my school acquainted with them, and then we will form a society to aid the Colonization Society, for that you say is to put down slavery, and the slave trade.

*Mr. G.* That's a good girl; if you and Charles, and other children awake to the claims of Africa and the Colonization Society, my object in telling you these stories will be accomplished. I will add a few more short ones to-night, and leave Caroline to relate any that she may have heard.

In 1783, Captain Collingwood went to Africa in the ship *Zone*, for slaves. He obtained a large cargo, but many of them died. The captain and mate conferred together, and at last the captain proposed to throw the feeble and sickly overboard, and frame a story that should make it appear they came to their end by misfortune or accident, and not by a natural death; and thereby bring the loss upon those who insured the ship, instead of the owners.

The mate agreed to the proposal, and over a hundred and thirty of the most feeble were selected. The first day they threw into the sea fifty of them; the second day forty, and the next day the remainder were brought on deck to share the same fate; sixteen were thrown overboard without making the least resistance. The remaining ten forbade the captain or one of the crew to touch them, and for a moment resisted, but finding it in vain, they leapt over themselves into the same watery grave after their companions.

*Caroline.* Why did the captain wish to favor the owners rather than the insurers?

*Mr. G.* I presume he shared the profits of the voyage with the owners. This captain was but very little more cruel than the one who commanded the ship *Two Brothers*, from

Bristol, about the same time. One of his crew, named John Dean, innocently gave some trifling offence to one of the officers, which put the captain in a rage, and John was ordered to be tied down upon the deck, flat upon his belly, and the demon-like captain took *hot pitch*, and poured it over his naked back, and then made incisions in it with red hot tongs.

*Charles.* What was done to the wretch?

*Mr. G.* He was prosecuted, and compelled to procure bondsmen to pay whatever damages might be awarded by the court, and then allowed to sail again upon the same execrable business.

Mr. Clarkson found a surgeon's mate who had made two voyages to Africa in slave ships. In one of them eleven of the sailors deserted, and nine died; every one of them experienced the most abusive treatment; and nothing could be more dreadful than the cruelties practised upon the slaves during the voyage. On one occasion, they tried to force their way out of their irons, but were instantly fired upon by order of the captain. One was shot through the heart for being restive. Another refused to come up out of the hold when called, and scalding fat and water was poured down upon his naked body through the gratings till his tor-

ments became insupportable ; he then promised to come up, and was solemnly assured that no further injury should be done him. He came up, but seeing an armed man stand ready to receive him, he grasped him, and received the fire of a pistol ; but dodged so that the ball passed him, but he instantly was levelled with the butt end of a musket, which proved his death. The rest of the cargo was carried to St. Vincents for sale. Among them was a boy slave, very ill and thin ; the mate refused to let him appear at the market, fearing his sickly appearance might hurt the sale of the others ; and knowing he would fetch little or nothing if offered at auction, he left him in the ship without one particle of food, where he languished nine days, and died of starvation.

*Janette.* Pa', why is it that slave captains are so much more cruel and wicked than other men ?

*Mr. G.* I suppose it is because they are more familiar with misery in its most dreadful forms, than other men. Some men of tender feelings have been tempted from love of money to make one voyage in the capacity of captain. Their feelings became callous, and they felt little reluctance to go a second ; and having made three or four, their natures seem to un-

dergo an entire change, and they become ferocious if not blood-thirsty. Why my dear children, I do not suppose it would be possible for you and I to watch for opportunities to steal and carry off helpless women and children, and chain them down in the hold of a ship, and see their tears, and hear all their shrieks and groans, till many of them died of fear and despair, without having our hearts grow very hard and cruel.

*Charles.* Pa', we never could be so cruel.

*Mr. G.* Almost every man dislikes the business at first, but after a few years, they become such monsters of cruelty, it is difficult to realize they ever were humane and kind. But I should not dare to say I would not one day be as hardened and depraved as the captain with whom Peter Green sailed, if I should yield to temptation and go one voyage.

*Children.* Who was Peter Green?

*Mr. G.* He was steward of a slave ship, which sailed from Liverpool in 1786. A black woman went out in the same ship as an interpretress to the slaves after the cargo should be put on board. She was the property of the owners, and was almost as wicked. One afternoon, while the captain was on shore, the negress asked Peter for the pantry keys,

which he refused to give her, because he had more than once had a severe flogging for giving her admission to the wine, of which she always made too free, whenever an opportunity offered. She flew into a great passion and struck Green. Soon afterwards she became sullen, but sat quiet until the captain returned, when she cried out against Peter for a personal assault. The captain asked no questions, but ordered Green's hands to be tied to an iron bolt in the side of the ship, and with a cat-o'-nine-tails in one hand, and a double walled knot in the other, he beat the poor steward, first on the back and then on the head, till from fatigue he was obliged to rest. Poor Green, in an agony, called upon all within hearing to help, and to show mercy, but taunting answers were all that he received from them, except a continuation of blows from the captain and both mates, who repeated them till their lashes were worn to threads.

Another instrument was brought, and the savage captain laid on with all his strength, cursing his left hand because it could not deal so heavy a blow as the right.

*Children.* O Pa', do not tell any more ; this is too shocking !

*Caroline.* Shocking as it is, I wish to know the result.

*Mr. G.* The miserable man was afterwards manacled, and, just at dark, lowered down into a boat, where in a short time he died.

*Caroline.* This captain must have exceeded all others in wickedness. What punishment was inflicted upon the impious wretch?

*Mr. G.* A faint effort was made to bring the murderers before the public, but so deeply involved in guilt, connected with the slave trade, were the magistrates, and the greater part of the community, that nothing could be effected.

Here Mr. Granville was called out by one of his clients.

## CHAPTER X.

Ye heralds of a Saviour's love,  
To Afric's region fly ;  
O haste, and let compassion move  
For millions doomed to die.

"Aunt Caroline," said Janette, as soon as the door closed upon her father, "do you believe there is any thing in this country connected with slavery, that is like the horrid stories father has been relating?"

*Caroline.* Yes, Janette, I do, if they were brought to light ; but I trust the instances of extreme cruelty are rare. It is but a little time since three beautiful mulatto children were kidnapped (stolen) in Tennessee, and carried into Missouri and sold ! And I have heard persons of great respectability describe scenes in New Orleans, of which they were eye-witnesses, that might disgrace a West Indian plantation.

*Charles.* Have those persons who have gone to Liberia witnessed such things in Africa as we have been hearing ?

*Caroline.* Yes ; all accounts from Africa

and the West Indies agree. I do not think any that your father has related have been in the least exaggerated. In the West Indies such scenes are daily passing as would fill your heart with anguish. An overseer of a plantation, became angry at one of the slaves, and caught him up in his rage, and threw him into a copper of boiling cane-juice.

*Charles.* He deserved to have been hanged the next hour.

*Caroline.* He was never hanged ; the only punishment he suffered was the loss of his situation, and the payment of the price of the slave.

*Janette.* Are none of the slave murderers ever tried ?

*Caroline.* Yes ; but they are seldom convicted. A young girl, about fourteen, delayed going to her task, and for the crime of *loitering*, was whipped with so much severity, that she fell down and lay motionless some time. She was then dragged by her heels to a hospital ; where she died immediately. In this case there was a trial, but her owner was acquitted on the ground of improbability that a man would destroy his own property. O we do not know the excesses which unprincipled men are left to commit, when placed in

circumstances to unite in their own persons, *party, judge, and executioner.*

*Mrs. G.* I do not wonder that President Jefferson said, "I tremble for my country, when I remember that God is just—that his justice cannot sleep forever."

*Caroline.* Neither do I. How very hardened those men must be, who will carry on this guilty trade in human beings in the midst of all the light that now shines over the whole of these United States. And yet, almost in sight of Monrovia, *Americans* have contracted for slaves enough to fill two ships within a very few months.

Be assured ours is a guilty land. I presume the extent to which our citizens are engaged in robbing Africa of her children are known to few if any.

*Janette.* Aunt Caroline, where can the slave traders get so many natives so near Liberia?

*Caroline.* They are brought from a great distance. White traders in various parts of Africa instigate the *Moors* to fall upon the negroes, who take multitudes, and bring them to the slave factories on the coast. The kings of many nations in the interior fit out expeditions for no other purpose but to take slaves; much as the fur-traders, in this country fit out

hunting expeditions to obtain the skins of animals.

*Charles.* Do the kings find their subjects willing to go out for such an object?

*Caroline.* Yes; for the natives have become so shamefully avaricious, that some of them will sell their own parents, and one gentleman said, that a woman offered to sell him her babe, and abused him outrageously because he refused to buy it. The natives have been known to invite company to visit them, and then treacherously detain them, till they could sell them for slaves. You would feel astonished to know how many persons have been carried out of that country since nearly all the powers of Europe have interdicted the slave trade. In a little more than a year, it has been ascertained that *three hundred and fifty cargoes of slaves* have sailed from the coast.

*Charles.* How many can they carry in one ship?

*Caroline.* The owners, and commanders of slave ships are so greedy of gain that they sometimes stow away in the hold and between decks, between five and six hundred slaves in a vessel of less than two hundred tons burden. Such an one was captured, a few years ago, on her voyage to Havanna, the capital of the island of Cuba, and it was found that one

hundred and twenty had died after leaving the river Bonny, where they were shipped. Another slaver was taken before she left the coast with more than six hundred on board, and from the putrid state of the air, and from close crowding, about two hundred died ; and many of the rest never recovered from the sickness brought upon them by cruel treatment. A Portuguese brig of only one hundred and twenty tons, took on board six hundred slaves, but was captured before she had sailed eighty miles ; but in so short a time thirty were dead, and many more in a dying condition. The humane captain of the ship, who took the slave brig, removed more than a hundred of the poor creatures into his own vessel, and thereby saved many of them alive, who must otherwise have died before they could have reached Sierra Leone. A slaver took away between eight and nine hundred slaves from Mozambique, of whom between three and four hundred died before the end of the voyage. It is not uncommon for a disease of the eyes, called *ophthalmia*, to affect nearly the whole crew, which in many instances occasions the entire loss of one or both eyes ; the pain and agony of this disease is unutterable. In a slave ship bound to Gaudaloupe, a few years since, this disease appeared, and many of the

poor slaves became totally blind, and you will not be sorry to hear that the cruel captain and surgeon lost each one eye.

*Charles.* I wonder they had not lost both.

*Caroline.* If they had, perhaps they would not have thrown all the blind slaves into the sea, as they did.

Such dreadful accounts are very distressing to us when we read or hear about them, but how much more so would it be to witness them. Sir George Collier says, "that such is the merciless treatment of the slaves, by the persons engaged in the traffic, that no fancy can picture the horror of the voyage; crowded together so as not to give the power to move, linked one to the other by the leg, never unfettered while life remains, or till the iron shall have fretted the flesh almost to the bone, forced under a deck, as I have seen them, *not thirty inches in height*, breathing an atmosphere the most putrid and pestilential possible, with little food and less water, subject also to the most severe punishment, at the caprice or fancy of the brute who may command the vessel. It is to me a matter of extreme wonder, that any of these miserable people live the voyage through; many of them, indeed, perish on the passage, and those who

remain to meet the shore, present a picture of wretchedness, language cannot express."

*Janette.* I will try to do something for these poor people, now I know so much about their sufferings. I wonder I never have heard more said about slavery, and the horrors of the slave trade.

*Caroline.* The world has been slumbering over the subject for a long time, but now so many have awaked, that you will hear more and more about it, and you may rest assured, that young as you are, if you try to raise up all your acquaintance to do all their limited capacities will allow to promote the objects of the Colonization Society, they will excite others, so that in a short time there will not remain one boy or girl indifferent to the subject, in any Sabbath school in the United States.

*Charles.* What shall I tell the boys that the Colonization Society intend to do, when every body is willing to help them?

*Caroline.* You may tell them, that it wishes to establish colonies all along the south-west and western coast of Africa. Some people wish to have them purchase a territory in Africa, that will suit the constitutions of the colored people born and brought up in New England, and an island

called Bulama in the mouth of the river Rio Grande has been mentioned. It is nine miles wide, and nineteen miles in length. The Society would like to procure a territory at, or near Cape Palmas, for the colored people from the extreme south, if they had money. You know they now possess a fine country on the St. Paul's river, which suits the emigrants from the middle States almost as well, as the places they left. The Society have from the first, framed all their "measures with reference to the *entire* suppression of the slave trade, and to a gradual and prudent, but complete emancipation of those now held in slavery."

*Charles.* If I thought all this could ever be effected, I would work every minute between schools, to earn my part of the money.

*Caroline.* It can, and it will be effected, Charles, and there are more than ten thousand boys in the American Sabbath schools, that will probably share in the honor of hastening its accomplishment.

*Charles.* I will be one of the first of them; and if I could, I would prevent another slave being ever brought into the United States.

*Caroline.* If you cannot do all you wish, yet if you do all you can, and others do as

much, the time will soon come when another slave will never enter a port in North or South America.

*Charles.* Do they have slaves in South America?

*Caroline.* Yes, Charles; from 1825 to 1830, in the single port of Rio de Janeiro, no less than one hundred and fifty thousand were imported. As many as one hundred thousand slaves are carried every year from the shores of Africa. I have been told that in many districts, there are few inhabitants except old people and young boys and girls to be seen. The other inhabitants having been taken off to supply the slave markets.

*Mrs. G.* If money, and labor, can hedge up the path of the slave dealers, I hope we shall all be willing to make liberal offerings.

*Caroline.* If only one half of the money that has been spent in the United States for ardent spirits every year, were spent in carrying back to Africa the free colored people, and purchasing and sending back the slaves, there would not be left in the United States a single colored person at the end of six or seven years. Or if a tax of *nine cents* were levied upon every white person in the United States, it would pay for sending to Liberia at

least fifty thousand colored people a year, so long as the tax should be paid.

*Charles.* Is there a person to be found who would not gladly pay such a tax?

*Caroline.* I hope not. Many persons have said that if the means of defraying the expense of carrying the colored people to Africa were furnished, they would not be willing to go, but I cannot think so, for at this moment one thousand free colored people are waiting for an opportunity to go out this season, and more than six hundred slaves would be made free, if they could go out this winter. I have heard of gentlemen in North Carolina who have said they would emancipate three thousand of their slaves the moment they could be sent to Liberia. Many of the most respectable and wealthy gentlemen in Kentucky, would be thankful to see every colored person in the State on their way to Africa.

*Charles.* If all the colored people in the United States should go to Liberia, would they find room enough?

*Caroline.* Not without purchasing more land; for each settler who complies with the conditions offered by the agent, obtains quite a nice little farm.

*Charles.* What are the conditions?

*Caroline.* The colonists have to build a

house on their land, and cultivate a portion of it within two years after it is assigned them, or they forfeit their gift.

*Charles.* How many acres are allowed them?

*Caroline.* Fifteen to begin with; and if other conditions are complied with, I believe they have still more. The examples of industry, and sobriety, which many of the settlers have exhibited, have produced very pleasing effects upon many of the natives in the vicinity. As many as ten thousand have put themselves under the protection of the colony already. Some of them shouted for joy when the agent received them, and allowed them to call themselves Americans.

*Clara.* Why did they shout?

*Caroline.* For joy that they would no longer be obliged to conform to the laws and customs of their ancestors, nor be exposed to be sold for slaves. Many of the colonists are very respectable, and very intelligent men; some of them have acquired from twenty to thirty thousand dollars.

*Janette.* What are their names, aunt Caroline?

*Caroline.* I recollect the names of Rev. Mr. Waring, and Mr. Devany, the high sheriff

of Liberia. I have heard several others mentioned as being men of great enterprize and integrity.

*Charles.* Who was Mr. Devany?

*Caroline.* I will mention a few facts respecting him, and wish they were told to every colored person in the country. He was a slave in South Carolina not many years ago; but having obtained his freedom, he went to Philadelphia and worked at sail-making with a colored man till he went out to Liberia. After his arrival, the colonial agent employed him to navigate a small vessel up and down the coast, till he laid up about two hundred dollars, with which he commenced trade. Mr. Waring is engaged in trade also. They sell from twenty to seventy thousand dollars worth of goods in a year. Mr. Devany visited his relations in the United States not long since, and among other things he said there had never been but two or three removals from the colony on account of discontent; and those were very worthless persons.

*Charles.* I wish I could have seen him; I should like to ask about the climate, and many other things.

*Caroline.* To inquiries about the heat and the state of health in the colony, Mr. Devany said that he had never known the thermome-

ter rise higher than ninety-one degrees, and never so high but once; that it usually ranged between sixty-eight and eighty-eight degrees. They never build chimneys in their houses, except in the kitchen; but when they want a fire in wet and cool weather, they burn charcoal in little brick furnaces. He said colored people enjoyed as good health there, as in America.

*Charles.* I am astonished that any of our colored people can live contentedly away from Liberia a day after they have acquired property enough to carry them there. Slavery has disgraced the whole of them.

*Caroline.* Yes, and it has cast a shade over this whole country—the guilt belongs to us, not to them, and the disgrace too; for ours is the only civilized country where it is allowed.

*Charles.* Are there many people of color in Europe at the present time?

*Caroline.* No, not more than fifty thousand, scattered over the whole of it.

*Charles.* And in this country, nearly three millions—besides two millions or more in the Floridas, Mexico, South America, and the West India Islands.

*Caroline.* Yes; but not *all* slaves, though a vast proportion of them are.

*Clara.* Aunt Caroline, why will you not give us the account of the Sierra Leone colony, this evening?

*Caroline.* I may as well this evening as ever. I am glad you have not forgotten the promise I made you. Do you recollect what I told you about the trial of the slave Somerset, in England?

*Children.* We do ; Mr. Granville Sharp befriended him.

*Caroline.* He did ; and after the case was decided in favor of slaves, the public looked upon Mr. Sharp as the most prominent advocate of their cause in the kingdom.

He was a friend indeed to the poor slaves. In a short time as many as four hundred blacks, some of whom had been slaves in the United States, and who, at the close of the revolutionary war, had been carried by the British to London, and others from the West India Islands, unable to obtain constant employment in London, flocked to Mr. Sharp for protection and support. His means were not sufficient to satisfy the demands of so many needy claimants, and he conceived the design of colonizing them.

He knew there were a large number of the same class of colored people in Nova Scotia, who had followed the British arms, and had

gone there at the end of the American war to settle on lands which had been promised them by the British government. About the same time, Dr. Smeathman, who had resided several years in Africa, happened to be at London, and offered to take charge of those colonists who were willing to go to Sierra Leone, on the western coast of Africa. Mr. Granville Sharp received some aid from government, the public being anxious to remove so worthless a class of inhabitants from the country. Just as the emigrants were ready to sail, Dr. Smeathman died, and they were placed under the command of captain, afterwards admiral Thomson. He received twelve pounds for each emigrant, and charged himself with the whole expense of the expedition.

*Janette.* How many emigrants went with him ?

*Caroline.* Sixty Europeans, and four hundred African people. The ship sailed on the eighth of April, 1787. It was so much crowded, that sickness in the most alarming forms appeared among the crew. The previous intemperate and vicious habits of both *blacks and whites*, increased the malignity of the fever, and hastened a fatal termination in the cases of a large number on the passage.

At the end of the rains, the first season, not more than a hundred and forty or fifty remained in a body. This small number was still farther reduced by desertion, discontent, and famine, till only forty were left.

Mr. Sharp heard of the fate of the first colonists, and with a little aid from government, and the assistance of a few private friends, he fitted out a brig with abundant supplies, and nearly forty new colonists of a better character; he paid out of his own purse almost three thousand dollars in fitting out this ship.

*Janette.* Was this expedition more fortunate?

*Caroline.* A little: however, thirteen of these died soon after they landed in August, 1788. The news of the arrival of more emigrants filled the hearts of those who were there with great gladness, and soon brought back to the settlement many who had deserted, and taken up their abode with the natives, in the interior.

When the brig left the colony it numbered one hundred and thirty.

The next year a neighboring chief having been ill treated by a *white slave factor*, took vengeance on the settlement, by plundering and burning a great part of all the dwellings.

About those days the Sierra Leone Company was formed in London, for the purpose of carrying forward the benevolent designs of Mr. Sharp, which, after encountering great difficulties, received the sanction of parliament, and was incorporated in 1791. In about a year afterwards, this company proposed to have Mr. Clarkson, a brother of the celebrated writer of the history of the Abolition of the Slave Trade, go to Nova Scotia to invite those refugee negroes who had followed the British at the close of the revolution, to remove to Sierra Leone as colonists; and if willing, he was requested to conduct them to the shores of Africa. He immediately went to Nova Scotia, and found all but three or four anxious to change their situation, and cordially willing to accompany him.

Mr. Clarkson engaged sixteen vessels, which took on board more than eleven hundred blacks, and two hundred whites. This expedition sailed for the far distant colony in March, 1792.

The Sierra Leone Company supported the colony till it was taken under the patronage of the British government, in 1808. Since then, from ten to fifteen thousand Africans have been recaptured from the horrors of slave ships, settled in the colony, fed and

clothed by government till they were capable of supporting themselves. Regents-town began to be built by them in 1813, and the Rev. Mr. Johnson was appointed to take charge of this town in June, 1816. When he went to examine the condition of his people, he felt the deepest discouragement.

Many of them had been just liberated from the holds of slave-ships, and their appearance was most wretched and ghastly. They were worn to skeletons, and sometimes six or eight died in a day.

*Janette.* What kind of houses had they?

*Caroline.* Mere huts, in which from ten to twenty of the miserable creatures would crowd, of all ages and both sexes; without seeming to have any idea of the meaning of purity.

Scarcely the faintest desire for improvement, was visible among those who had been there the longest; and for a long time they did not cultivate more than five or six acres of land. *Devils' houses* were erected by them, and all seemed to place their security in the *greegrees* they wore.

Mr. Johnson tried to make them wear some kind of clothing, but every article he gave them, they either sold, or threw away; until they saw a young girl who belonged to them,

and who went to live with Mr. Johnson, dressed properly; after that some of them were induced to wear clothes. They were violently prejudiced against each other, and improved every opportunity to express the hostile feelings they cherished. I presume they would have agreed better, if they could have understood each other; but they belonged to more than twenty different nations, and the only common medium of intercourse was a little broken English.

*Janette.* What did Mr. Johnson make of such a wretched, brutal people?

*Caroline.* With the blessing of God, he made them Christians. He instructed them in letters and a knowledge of the gospel, knowing that if they became pious, they would be civilized. Government aided a little in the improvements which were commenced by Mr. Johnson, who engaged in his labors with true missionary zeal. In less than two years a beautiful stone church was erected, a parsonage-house finished very neatly, and a large number of houses built of stone by the negroes, with the help of a few soldiers, and one European artificer.

*Charles.* Built by those miserable beings Mr. Johnson found there?

*Caroline.* Yes; for their own use. At the

end of three years, a government-house was completed, school-houses, a bridge of several arches, and a hospital.

*Charles.* Had he persuaded them to cultivate the land too ?

*Caroline.* Yes ; they all became farmers, and were very industrious. After completing their houses, they paid great attention to their gardens and rice fields—every man fenced in a garden adjoining his house, which produced abundance of all kinds of vegetables. Besides taking care of their land, they learned trades so well, that they made clothes, did mason work, sawed boards and made shingles, and in these and other ways six or seven hundred of them maintained themselves very respectably.

*Janette.* Did they wear decent clothes ?

*Caroline.* Yes ; and the females learned to make them.

Mr. Johnson had but nine hearers the first Sabbath he preached ; but after laboring three years, he had twelve or thirteen hundred negroes to hear him preach three times every Sabbath. Marriage had been instituted, and he had married four hundred couple in the time. They had abandoned their heathenish customs of night dancing, drumming, and other parts of demon worship. And what

seemed to me very remarkable was, that during the third year, there had not been seen a drunken person in Regents-town.

*Charles.* I am sure it is a good thing to send the black people to Africa, for they will not behave so well here. How many natives have they taken from slave ships?

*Caroline.* In 1820, it was supposed that eleven thousand had been liberated, and settled at Sierra Leone. A considerable number of the natives came down to the colony, and obtained leave to settle with their recaptured brethren.

*Janette.* Did the other settlements prosper as well as Regents-town, and did that continue to flourish?

*Caroline.* I believe they did; as for Regents-town, Capt. Turner said in 1822, that it appeared as well as most English villages, that "its inhabitants were civilized, industrious, honest, and neatly clothed." Every Sabbath, hundreds were to be seen hastening to the house of God, hungering for the bread of life.

An English sea captain was expressing his astonishment at what he saw, and asked the governor what methods had been pursued to bring about such changes. "No other," said the governor, "than the truths of

Christianity; by this alone they have been ruled, and raised to a common level with other civilized nations." A gentleman who had visited it, and spent one Sabbath at Regents-town, said that when the bell struck for the hour of regular worship, it seemed as if the whole town was moved by a magic touch; for in a minute, twelve or fourteen hundred people, all clean and neat, with a Bible under their arm, were moving to St. Charles's church—and not far behind them, about a dozen young men with their Bibles, from the classical school, who had been selected for their piety and superior attainments, and were preparing for missionaries to the different tribes or nations from which they had been carried into bondage.

*Janette.* How are so many slaves recaptured?

*Caroline.* By British armed vessels, who are sent out by the king of England, to cruise for slavers.

*Charles.* How many villages are there belonging to the colony?

*Caroline.* Five, besides the Kissey towns. The largest is Freetown—the others are named Regents-town, Gloucester, Wilberforce, and Leicester, which stands on an eminence called Leicester mountain. A large

school has been established there, called the *Christian Institute*, which accommodates more than two hundred children, who have been named and supported by benefactors in England.

There are boys and girls who have been rescued from slavery, fed and clothed by the hand of benevolence, as well as carefully instructed in the Christian religion, and the useful arts of life.

A great admiral, on visiting the schools at Sierra Leone, exclaimed, "Behold what religion can do!"

Leicester has two religious teachers—Freetown five, and all the other villages one; some of them are white, the rest colored men, but all of them persons of distinguished piety.

*Janette.* How large is the colony now, and how much territory do they possess?

*Caroline.* I believe their present population is about twenty thousand, and their first purchase about twenty miles; but they have been enlarging their territory, and the last I heard, the colony was in a very flourishing state. Trade with the interior had become quite extensive, so that in one year the natives had carried down to the colony *gold* to the amount of fourteen thousand pounds.

*Janette.* Where do they obtain their gold ?

*Caroline.* Sometimes they find it in small solid bodies, but generally they obtain it by washing the sand they gather from the beds of rivers ; the gold is washed down from the mountains by the heavy rains.

*Janette.* Have they no white people except the governor and missionaries ?

*Caroline.* Yes ; they have a few mechanics, and school-masters, besides all the civil and military officers. They have some chaplains, I think, in addition to the missionaries.

*Clara.* Have missionaries been sent from the United States to Liberia ?

*Caroline.* Yes ; the Baptist Board sent out two, and the American Board of Foreign Missions one, but they all died ; and I believe all the Swiss missionaries are dead, except Mr. Sessing and two others.

*Janette.* How many Swiss missionaries went out ?

*Caroline.* Eight went to Liberia. Mr. Sessing, wife, and three single brethren from the Missionary Seminary at Basle, in Switzerland, went to Africa, in 1828. Mr. Sessing and Mr. Hegele settled in Grand Bassa, eighty miles down the coast south of Monrovia. Mr. Hegele was struck with the sun, became delirious, and went to Europe.

The natives of Grand Bassa, at first, were jealous and distrustful, believing the missionary to be a slave dealer, like all other white men whom they had known before their acquaintance with the Liberia colonists. But after they were made to understand the benevolent design of Mr. Sessing, they were confiding as little children, and said, "White man likes black people, white man come teach them *the book*, white man cannot die." Carrying their children to Mr. Sessing, they would say, "Teach them white man's fashion." He found Joseph Harris, the king, a good natured old man, who constantly urged him to settle with him, and took him to the St. John's river and said, "Here, white man, is a place for you to sit down ; my people must come and build you a house, and make you a farm. You make a school here, and I will send my boys, and my girls ; they will, and must learn book."

*Janette.* What became of the rest ?

*Caroline.* Mr. Wolfe died in January, 1827. Rev. Rudolph Dietschy, and Rev. John Burher died also ; the former March 22, 1830, and the latter the 26th of the same month.

Rev. Mr. Graner was very sick at the time of Mr. Burher's death. Mr. Sessing, Mr.

Herhe, and Mr. Kessling are still alive, or were the last I heard. Some of them reside at Monrovia, in a house given them by Mr. Ashmun. They often preach in the Methodist chapel, and one of them went up to Cape Mount, to instruct the mission school established by the Rev. Lott Carey.

*Janette.* I remember reading about that school in the Baptist African Mission book.

*Caroline.* I cannot spend any more time with you this evening. But I will tell you more about Africa, and the importance of the Colonization Society, some other time.

On what conditions do the colonists receive their land? How many natives have put themselves under the protection of the colony? What do you remember about the climate of Liberia? How many slaves are in Europe? How many in the United States? Relate what you recollect about the colony at Sierra Leone? How many Swiss missionaries went to Liberia? How many are still living there?

## CHAPTER XI.

Let not our sorrows vainly flow,  
Nor let the strong emotion rise in vain;  
But may the kind contagion widely spread,  
Till in its flame the unrelenting heart  
Of avarice melt in softest sympathy—  
And one bright blaze of universal love,  
In grateful incense, rises up to Heaven!

ON the evening of Independence, while the family were sitting round the tea-table, Mr. Granville turned to Charles, and asked him what he could remember of Mr. Mason's address in favor of the Colonization Society?

Charles set down his cup and saucer, and looked very thoughtful a moment, and then said, "Pa', must I tell in Mr. Mason's own words?"

*Mr. G.* No, my son; you may tell in your own.

*Charles.* He said the Colonization Society was daily gaining friends—that the first and best men in the United States were among its firmest supporters—that all denominations of Christians and ministers were opposed to the slave trade, and that scarcely a child

could be found, that understood the claims of Africa, but wished to do something to make slaves happier till they could all go home to Africa—that, already, more than a hundred and fifty Auxiliary Societies had been formed, and reported, besides fifteen *State Societies*. He hoped the African Education Society, established at the city of Washington, in December, 1829, would be patronized by the friends of the cause, especially by the ladies; and then he praised the Richmond and Baltimore ladies, and the ladies in a great many other towns and cities, and hoped the time was at hand, when the Boston ladies would take a conspicuous part in this good work.

*Mr. G.* You have brought home more than I expected, Charles, and have not misrepresented. Janette, can you relate as much?

*Janette.* Yes, sir. May I tell in my own words, Pa'?

*Mr. G.* Yes.

*Janette.* He said Sabbath scholars could do ten times more for the poor African children in this country, and Liberia too, than they ever had done—and that “young men and maidens, old men and children,” should pray that God would raise up colored

ministers and schoolmasters to go to Liberia, and the adjacent country, and give money cheerfully to carry out colonists and missionaries; for there were, at least, one hundred millions of people now "sitting in the region and shadow of death," on the continent of Africa, and the neighboring islands.

*Mr. G.* You have used more of Mr. Mason's expressions than Charles. Come, Clara, what can you relate of the remarks?

*Clara.* He said that a gentleman in Philadelphia had remarked, in public, that he should as soon think of draining Lake Erie with a ladle, as removing all the colored people from the United States to Africa; but the same gentleman now thinks differently, and gives large sums every year to promote their removal, because he believes the free people of color are happier in Africa, than they can be any where else. He then read part of Mr. Shipherd's letter, and a little from Mr. McGill's letter. I cannot repeat the letters, but I saw aunt Caroline write it off in short hand.

*Mrs. G.* Sister Caroline, do read them.

*Caroline.* Mr. Shipherd writes, "The most sanguine of my expectations of happiness in this colony, have been surpassed in point of

acquiring wealth, ease, respectability, and the pleasures attendant on civil and religious liberty." And Mr. McGill expresses himself still stronger. He says, "If the very best square in the city of Baltimore were offered me, it would not induce me, in the present state of things, to remain in the United States. I am satisfied that Africa is the place for me, and mine, and all of my color."

*Clara.* I do not remember who these men were, Pa'.

*Mr. G.* Mr. McGill was a Methodist minister, who was pastor of a church in Baltimore, before he went to Liberia; and Mr. Shipherd was a pious schoolmaster and surveyor.

*Mrs. G.* Do you not believe all the free people of color would be of the same mind, were they equally enlightened and intelligent?

*Mr. G.* I have not a doubt but they would. Now, Caroline, let us hear what you have remembered.

*Caroline.* I took down the address in short hand, for I wished to carry it home with me. If you please, I will read what Mr. Mason said about a remedy for the slave trade. Mr. and Mrs. Granville requested her to read, and she began. "There is but one speedy way of breaking up the slave trade, and that is, to

have ten or twelve light, fast sailing schooners to cruize on the coast, at those places from which the slavers can take off slaves. These vessels should relieve each other, and continue on the coast during the whole year. They should have one or two sloops of war, with the forces of which would be strong enough to land and break up the slave factories. If this system was pursued by either or all of the nations who undertake to break up the slave trade, for two years, I question whether, at the end of that time, there would be a slave vessel found on the coast of Africa.

*Mr. G.* In that way, thousands of slaves would be captured, and brought to the colony, or sent back to their native tribes. In 1828, an English ship of war captured nearly twelve hundred, who were on their way to a slave market.

*Janette.* Ma' has not told what she remembers yet, Pa'.

*Mr. G.* Come, my dear, I should like to know what part you most approved.

*Mrs. G.* The whole address met my views, and answered my expectation; but I must say the description of the state in which the free people of color were, in Ohio and Canada,

moved my feelings as much or more than any other facts he mentioned.

*Janette.* Ma', do repeat the facts.

*Mrs. G.* The Canada company encouraged the colored people in Ohio to remove into Canada, and promised them a million of acres of land if they wanted it. They actually purchased thousands of acres and removed upon it, and began to cultivate gardens, and farms with much spirit. When the House of Assembly saw how rapidly they increased, they were alarmed, and passed resolutions to check, if not to prohibit any further settlement. Ohio resolved to get clear of them, and has recently warned all of them to depart out of her borders, under a penalty of five hundred dollars for every one who outstays thirty days.

*Charles.* Pa', what can they do? where can they go?

*Mr. G.* They must go to Africa, there only will the whole African race find rest. New England must furnish a great part of the money to defray the expense of their transportation. I do not believe there is a man of principle, sensibility, or Christian benevolence among us, who will not cheerfully bear his part in the colonizing enterprize, when he fully understands what has been accomplish-

ed, and what is now in contemplation by the Board of Managers. My views, and feelings, have undergone a great change since I began to examine its proceedings, for the sake of my children and scholars in the Sabbath school, and doubtless a knowledge of facts will produce a similar change in the minds of others.

Mr. Granville had made an engagement, which he went to fulfil, soon after prayers.

*Janette.* Mother, I hope you and aunt Caroline will tell more about Africa.

*Caroline.* You may go and bring the map of Africa, and I will point out some of the districts on the western coast from the Timmany country to Cape Palmas. You may open the map of Liberia. At the top, or north part of it you see the Timmany country; from east to west it extends about ninety miles, and from north to south forty-five. A traveller passing through this country a few years ago, was introduced to Ba-Kobala, the king, who, on that occasion, was dressed in a long white shirt, and over it a scarlet mantle drawn over one shoulder, and confined below to the other.

The Mandingo country lies east of Grand Cape Mount. They are all Mohammedans, and wear blue or red cloth caps, embroidered

with silk. The men wear a short robe, made in the most simple manner, consisting of only one piece of cloth, with a hole cut in the middle of it large enough to admit the head, and a pair of trowsers so large, if a person of rank, that twenty yards of cloth are put into one pair. The words *Kroote Aboo-mato*, means either *great man* or *trowsers*. The Mandingons have only four professions—the orator, minstrel, shoemaker, and blacksmith. The men wear a knife or cutlass hanging from their girdles. The dress of the women are like the men, only they do not wear trowsers, but a simple fold of cloth around the waist. They are every where respected, partly on account of their manufacturing the *charms*, and *fetiches* (gods) of the country, to a very great distance. The Mandingons have made greater progress in civilization than any of their neighbors, who often distinguish them by the name of the *god-people*, or idol-makers. For shrewdness and cunning, they exceed any other tribe, and always make sure of the best part of the bargain.

The Dey, or Fey country, is near the *Gallinas* (a famous slave market), and extends north and south fifty miles, and about thirty miles inland. The Fey people are active, warlike, proud and deceitful. They number

twelve or fifteen thousand souls, three-fourths of whom are domestic slaves ; the rest slave traders. The Deys occupy the coast from Cape Mount to Messurado, about fifty miles in extent from north to south, and only twelve or fifteen miles inland. They are an indolent, but treacherous and profligate people. South of Messurado, there is the great and little Bassas, Rock Sesters, Young Sesters, Settra Kroo, and one or two other small places before you arrive at Cape Palmas. These countries extend about twenty miles inland, and contain about one hundred and fifty thousand inhabitants.

The farther south you go, the languages of the natives become more and more unmusical. In the vicinity of Cape Palmas the language of the natives sounds like the cry of a duck, while the more northern resembles the Italian. However, there is an astonishing variety ; within sixty miles you find eight or ten different languages. The Foulah country is about the size of the State of Massachusetts ; Teembo is the capital.

*Janette.* I wish I knew more about Africa.

*Caroline.* If you will read the travels of Park, Clapperton, Denham, Laing, the Landers and some others, you will learn a great deal about the former, and present state of

Africa. I could tell you stories from books written by those travellers a whole night that would be very entertaining.

*Clara.* I hope you will, aunt Caroline.

*Caroline.* You may find the States of Barbary on the map of Africa.

*Children.* Here they are.

*Caroline.* There, all that space between the Barbary States and Central Africa, is occupied by Arabs, who live in moveable villages, composed of little circular huts, or tents. They are all subject to the Moorish princes, and profess the Mussulman faith.

The present inhabitants of Egypt are a strange mixture of Persian, Grecian, Roman, and Arabian races.

*Charles.* Are the Africans real idolaters?

*Caroline.* Yes, those who do not profess the Mohammedan faith; indeed many of those carry about their charms, and fetiches, and exhibit as much superstition as the heathen.

*Janette.* Will you please to explain more to my comprehension, what the charms and fetiches are?

*Caroline.* The *greegrees*, or charms, are made of silk or leather, in various forms, but all enclose a bit of paper with an Arabic word written upon it. *God*, is the word commonly written. They suppose these greegrees preserve

their health, and lives, and do much to promote their happiness, and success in life. The *fetich*, or idol, is sometimes one thing, and sometimes another. Whatever a native imagines to possess supernatural power, becomes his idol, whether it be a mountain, tree, river, serpent, a scrap of paper, a blade of grass, or even the shadow of a man; he worships it, consults it, and prays to it for deliverance and protection. Sometimes they wear fifty or a hundred different *charms and fetiches at once*. If he fails of obtaining his wishes he will change his fetich, and buy another, for they have almost an endless variety of them, which can be bought and sold at pleasure. Many of the nations in Central Africa offer human victims in sacrifice. In Ashantee, as many as four thousand have been sacrificed at the death of one great man. The king of Coomasie, the capital of Ashantee, sacrificed three thousand human beings upon the grave of his mother, under the absurd delusion, that in another world the honor and happiness of men are proportioned to the number who accompany them to the abodes of the dead.

*Cha's.* Where is the kingdom of Ashantee?

*Caroline.* In the interior of Africa, many days' journey from the coast. It is very pop-

ulous. Indeed, the population of Africa has been very much underrated. In Major Laing's journey from Sierra Leone to Sackatoo, the capital of the Felattah country, he passed through towns containing from twenty to fifty or sixty thousand inhabitants. Immense quantities of ivory and gold are found in Central Africa, and considerable quantities are brought down to the coast.

*Janette.* Aunt Caroline, we have not got the books of travels that you mentioned, and I do not think twenty of the scholars in our Sabbath school know any more about Africa than I do. Will you not help us form a little Society, to work for the schools at Liberia, and meet with us ; and while we work you tell us stories about Africa.

*Mrs. G.* I think it would be an excellent plan, sister ;—you have nothing to prevent your devoting half a day each week to such an object, and I know of no way in which you might do more good than by interesting children in the cause of Africa. The discoveries recently made in that interesting country, are of a nature to attract the attention of the young. And it is not improbable that parents might be led to reflect upon the importance of increasing efforts in behalf of the Colonization Society, and missions to Africa,

if they saw their children awake to the subject, and anxious to do good to the poor children of that too long oppressed and despised people.

*Caroline.* I am persuaded that your children will feel a stronger desire to become acquainted with the natural history, habits and manners of the people of Africa than they would have done, if they had not been instructed by the repeated conversations we have held with them of late. I fully approve of the plan you have proposed, and will assist you in carrying it into effect, while I remain here.

*Clara.* Aunt Caroline, have you told us all that you design to tell about Liberia?

*Caroline.* I have very little more to relate. The colony is in great prosperity at the present time; commerce is extending—the interests of agriculture daily improving—religious, moral and literary institutions advancing: and the whole colony exhibits less drunkenness, profaneness, and Sabbath-breaking, than many portions of the United States. Pleasing accounts have been received quite recently, dated in Sept. 1831. The Rev. M. C. Waring writes, that within the past year, sixty converts have been received into one church, half of whom were recaptured Afri-

cans. I was looking over one of Mr. Russworm's Liberia newspapers the other day, and wished all the colored people in America could read the following editorial remarks:—"Before God, we know of no other home for the man of color, of republican principles, than Africa. Has he no ambition? Is he dead to every thing noble? Is he contented with his condition? Let him remain in America. Let *him* who might *here* be an honor to society, remain a sojourner in a land where it is impossible to be otherwise. His spirit is extinct, and his friends may as well bury him *now*."

*Mrs. G.* The colored people cannot remain insensible much longer, I am sure they cannot, to the advantages offered them at Liberia.

*Caroline.* And I feel assured that females in the United States cannot withhold their prayers and charities for Africa, after they are acquainted with her woes and wretchedness.

The appeal of Mrs —, of Hartford, has thrilled through many hearts, and with an extract from it I will close the history of the Colonization Society.

"Liberia is reclaimed from savage sway, and her soil made ready for the seeds of knowledge and piety. From her, light and peace

are to pervade a pagan continent, to ‘hush the sighing of the prisoner, and save the souls appointed unto death.’ Those whose names will hereafter rank among the founders of nations, have been her pioneers and her benefactors. Some of these, have stamped their devotion to her cause, with the seal of martyrdom.

“Mothers! are your children spared from the grave, to blossom in beauty, and cheer your hearts with the promise of intelligence and wisdom? On the anniversary of their birth, bring as your thank-offering, a gift for Africa, that bereaved mother, so long bowed down by a double mourning—for *the dead, and for the living.*

“On the natal day of your country’s freedom, while you recount to your sons the blessings of liberty, incite them to an alms for *her* who hath worn in solitude and in bitterness, the fetters of all nations. Prompt your daughters, your servants, every female within the circle of your influence, to work one evening in each week, and dedicate this produce of their skill, their industry, or their genius to the *schools of Liberia.* Read to the loved group, nightly assembled around your fire-side, of the sorrows and the hopes of Africa—and let your comment be the tear of sympathy—the prayer of faith. At the

hour of repose, and the rising up of morn,  
 when your infants bend the knee to their  
 Father in Heaven, pour on their guileless lips  
 the petition—‘*Teach us to do good to Africa,  
 teach Africa to forgive.*’ Neither deem such  
 efforts hopeless, because they are humble ;  
 for thus to a clime deeply desolate—yet once  
 illustrious—~~the~~ ~~city~~ ~~of~~ ~~Rome~~ ~~trem-~~  
~~bling~~ ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~Alpine~~ ~~bat-~~  
~~lements~~ ;—a glory that Egypt never attained,  
 though she lifted *alone* the torch of science  
 over a darkened globe, and saw philosophy  
 travel an awe-struck pilgrim to her temple.  
 And when you go down to the vale of death,  
 charge your offspring to persevere in these  
 your labors of love, until in every hamlet of  
 regenerated Africa, the school-house and the  
 church-spire shall be seen in hallowed broth-  
 erhood, and the voice of the instructed child,  
 and the hymn of the joyful saint, ascend in  
 mingled melody to the throne of God.”

Who are the firmest supporters of the Colonization Society ?  
 Who are opposed to slavery ? How many Colonization So-  
 cieties have been formed by the States ? How many auxiliaries  
 aid the Parent Society ? How much may Sabbath scholars do  
 to aid this object ? What does Mr. Shipherd say ? What Mr.  
 McGill ? Can you name any remedy for the Slave trade ?  
 What measures have been taken by the State of Ohio to free  
 herself from colored inhabitants ? Where can they go to  
 find comfort and happiness ?

your children spared to  
som in beauty, and give  
the promise of intelligent

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